

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 3, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Nicole Merrison

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Hymn No. 398 "Rise Up, O Men of God"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) O thou God of holy love, we acknowledge that at the beginning of this year our lives do not stand before Thee as a book unwritten. Much that we shall do has been spelled out already, even before the year has begun. Inscribed deep within are old habits and familiar behavior patterns. We know that these in large part will write for us the history of this coming year. Cause us to be aware of thy forgiving grace, and when we have written a life page full of the errors of our misdeeds, help us to acknowledge ourselves for what we are, and to seek thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Kyrle

*Assurance of Pardon

*Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy Spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Requiem Observance and Prayer

Mrs. Margaret Cox, Robert Wickenhagen, Frances Atwell,

Clyde Wachsmuth, Eleanor Sandbach, Jennifer Sybert,

William Zavacky Sr., Grace Gillen

Friends: Margaret Fox, Mildred Janicki

Hymn No. 614 "For All the Saints"

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: Organ and Saxophone

Scripture: Ephesians 6: 10-13

Sermon: "Defensive Strategy"

*Hymn of Invitation No. 616 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

+ + + + +

*Congregation Standing

+ + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Andrews Family in memory of loved ones.

Mr. & Mrs. Marty Henry will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Marty Henry, Frank Crawford, John Snow and Jeff Snyder.

Attendance last Sunday was 107 with 16 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today.

Council representatives will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Ben Hockenberry in BMH - *DURIN BOLAH*

SUNDAY - Youth group at 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY - need help to take down the Christmas Tree

WEDNESDAY - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY - Chancel choir practice at 7 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

> January 17th immediately following church the youth will be holding another Soup & Sandwich luncheon in the hall. If you would like to donate a pot of soup, please see Bob, Mary Jane or one of the Youth. We look forward to your help and support.

> January 12th - Teachers meeting at 7:00 P.M. We would like to see all of the teachers and helpers present.

January 19th - Audit of all treasurers books within the church. Times for the audit are posted in the office. Please be sure to check for your time.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION is now due in. Those chairmen from 1987 are to report on their committees and the newly elected chairman for 1988. Please get this all into the office to avoid confusion for the new yearbook.

> NOMINATIONS FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS will be taken during the month of January. Each Sunday you may nominate someone. Please put their name on the small slips of paper found in the back of the pews and drop in the offering plate.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

"Defensive Strategy"
 Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-13
 (Ilus Boeing 707 circle Omaha for S.A.C.)
 This is only part of defens syst that on cal 24hr day
 2 protec us
 1st reflex on lif/on any lev of existenc it liv use
 defensiv strategy
 we think it mosly in sport wher impertiv 2hav means
 defens 2B employ 2preven op fr scor
 P's lettr 2 Ch in Eph writ 2giv propr perspec 2tru Xp
 2day & in nex few wks B4 Ient Bgin wil lk=Def Strat
 P outlin in end this lettr
 Here in 6th chap P conclud lettr w/not only gud advic
 but in this portin scrip 2day,employ pep talk
 vs 10a=means this ult all writ prior 2this
 prob B fac in Ch Eph was knu victry was secur
 evry Xpian kno this=thru Xp we 4givn/hav etnl lif
 so wat hap=many Xpian rest on laurels
 they feel no need do anythin=no need get involv ch wk
 feel=Im takn care of thru Xp that enuf
 thoz this mind oft 4get,evrday we involv battl lif
 2merly sit bak & try enjoy gud lif w/out regar 2our
 liv of Xpianity is 2 fal in2 hands of Satn
 We R 2weak own strength 2withstan evil 1 & we mus
 stan in strength of Lord
 vss 11-12=P warn Xpian wen seek liv 4-Lord,vulnrb 2
 stratagems of Satn
 I kno we liv enltn age,& many put dwn idea of demns
 as stupid think but wen P say-vs 12, he say we R
 involv battl w/somth canot C or touch,but it ther
 (Ilus Bill McLeod & demn poses yng man)
 (Ilus Jn MacArthur & demn poses girl=get him out,)
 we shudnt dwel demns/devils,or start lk 4undr evry
 tabl/chair etc,but they R real & we need 2kno we in
 constan battl w/them wen seek 2liv 4-Lord
 Satn duznt need atak thoz who R liv apart G's wil
 he has them wher want them
 But his plan is 2atak/discorag th 1's seek fol Xp
 I Bliev firmly Satn works his hardes Sunday morn
 (Ex=wat we wud rathr do=sleep,golf,picnic,lk weathr,
 & how bout kidz no want go?)
 G has sho in His Word how Satn atak Blievers
 Apos Jn exil Isl Patmos & wrot Rev
 Rev. 1:10-11=Jn 2receiv info wh writ dwn & send 7
 ch's in Asia & thoz wer actul Ch's
 in vs 11=wh is 1st Ch? Ch at Eph
 why list as #1? Bcuz was 1st Ch & th othr ch's wer
 born out of it
 incidently,can lk ch's evry age & clasify in catgor:
 of Ch=Eph,Smyna,etc.

Each history cans op 2-1 thez ycn's cy wat do/not do2/
 let us lk wat Jn writ 1st ch at Eph=vss 1-3
 Ch string & stud agin gals ldrs/teachrs
 (Expl templ Diana;Nicolaitans,imcrly)
 But Js say-vs 4 & mean:
 they exch hot luv 4-Xp in2 cold orthodoxy
 t^h serv had no joy,no enthusiasm as lnce did
 it was Ho-Hum's ville wen wors
 Can we mak cps 2day? do U hav sam luv 4-Xp as lnce did
 If luv anyth this worl,famlys,homes,poss mor than
 luv Xp,then we 2 hav los 1st luv
 if we serv Xp in ded,ritulistic way,then we mis purp
 of Xpian lif
 All need 2do is lk wat hapn Xpian Ch 2day & we can
 redily C ansr 2wher Ch stan 2day
 if worl chang rnd it & ch seek adap 2it,Ch is wrong
 Ex=famly,womn,home,morality,etc & ch adap 2it
 This is anti-Biblical
 (Ilus Wm Fore articl on Electronic Ch)
 this wat P tel pco Eph,& cal them from
 vs 13=We R 2put on protectin can only rum fr tru
 folowr of Xp
 (Ilus B. Sunday & Fite on Cornr wher U R)
 this wat P admonish pco in Ch of Eph
 that wat we R cal 2do also
 We R here not 2 drift & dream but 2fite on cornr
 wher we R
 We R 2B bout our Defensiv Strategy in prep selvs 2fite
 agin Satn & his forces in worl
 R U wil 2put on armr of G & fite th battl mor strngly
 in this yr?
 P=1 of Ur resolutins bin,or wil it B 2liv closer
 2 Jn Lord this yr?
 2serv Him,& luv Him w/th liv of Ur lif?
 I exten that invitatin 2 U 2Bgin liv 4 Him

(Ilus Wm Fore on Electronic Ch)

They sit at hom in fr of ther TV's & th
Ch cums 2them. They dont hav 2get dresd
& lv th hous-its a perf envirnment
Bu its anothr part of fantasy. TV is a
fantasy & our worl wants 2liv in that
fantasy. Th Ch that cums in2 our homs is
a perf Ch. Th music is unBlievbl. It has
a grand orchestra & grt singrs. Th preach
givs a perf mesag. In th fantasy ch U
nevr hav 2sit nex 2anyl U dont like, no 1
disturbs U & U dont hav 2find a plac ~~2par~~
2park. All U hav 2do is send them a littl
mony now & then 2eas Ur conscience & they
will tel U, U R winning th world. They may
send U sumth U can plastr on Ur wal 2pruv
how sacrificial U R. Wat a sad coment-
ary on th Ch. Th electronic Ch is bilt 4
entrtainemnt. It duplicats th very things
in th world that th Ch has always condemr
Th electronic Ch is mere expresin of
culturl relig, copying th value, glittr,
& trappings of th very values & kinds of
success we as Xpians profes 2reject
Lets liv in th real world. Wen th Ch is
so smug & comfortbl in its compromising
positin, it fals into th worlds fantasy.

(Ilus B. Sunday & Fite on Cornr wher U R

(Ilus Boeing 707 circl Omaha)

vs 10A

vss 11-12

(Ilus Bill McLeod & demn poses yng man)

(Ilus Jn MacArthur & demn poses girl=get
him out! Not him! Get him out!)

(Expl Satn Sundry morn work)

G sho in Word how Satan atak

Rev. 1:10-11

"Defensive Strategy"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-13

(Illustration of Boeing 707 of S.A.C. flying over Omaha)

~~xxxxxxrecentlyxxxxthatxxxxBoeing707~~

I read recently that a lone Boeing 707 circles Omaha, Nebraska every hour, every day of the year, carrying a general whose job means life or death for millions. The plane is an aerial command post for the Strategic Air Command, called a flying trigger that would send nuclear missiles into action if the United States were attacked.

This is only part of a defense system that is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to protect us. ~~xxxxxxwe think of life~~ But if we reflect on life on any level of existence, it is lived using "Defensive Strategy." We think of it mostly in sports where it is imperative that a means of defense be employed to prevent the opposition from scoring.

Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus was written to give the proper perspective to a true Christian. Today and in the next few weeks before Lent begins we are going to look at the "defensive Strategy which Paul outlines in the end of this letter. Here in this 6th chapter, Paul concludes this letter with not only good advice, but in this short portion of Scripture, he employs a pep talk.

He says, "Finally, my brethren." He ~~xxxxxx~~ means that this is the ultimate end of all that he has written prior to this. The problem being faced in the Church at Ephesus was that they knew victory was secure. Every Christian knows this. We know that through Christ we have the forgiveness of our sins and that when a Christian dies he goes to live eternally with God. So what happens for too many Christians is that they rest on their laurels. No need to do anything. No need to get involved in the work of the Church, I'm taken care of through Christ and that's it. But what happens so often is that those who are of this mind forget that everyday we are involved in the battle of life. To merely sit back and try to enjoy the good life without regard to our living of Christinity is to fall into the trap of Satan. We are too weak in our own strength to withstand the evil one, we must stand in the strength of the Lord.

Paul warns us by saying, (read verses 11-12). Paul is warning the Christian that when he seeks to live for the Lord, he is vulnerable to the stratagems of Satan. Now I know that we live in an enlightened age, and I know that we want to put down any thinking that there is such a thing as Satan. But when Paul says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood," he is saying that we are involved in a battle with something we cannot see or touch, but it is there.

(Illustration of Bill McCloud and demon possessed young man)

A few years ago when the Rev. William McCloud from Canada was holding services over at the Calvary Church on the Diamond, at the conclusion of one of the services a young man came forward to be prayed for. Bill took him into one of the offices where several ministers went also. There, Bill

began to pray for this young man who was kneeling by a chair. Suddenly, this young man began to throw himself around and another voice was coming out of him. I saw firsthand what a demon in a person can do.

John MacArthur tells of having a similar incident take place in his church in California. Some of the staff were praying for a girl who was demon possessed and they had sent for John to help them pray. He said when he walked into the room, a voice not that of the ~~first~~ girl cried out from within her, "Get him out! Not him! Get him out!" The deacon cried out against him because he was and is God's man.

We shouldn't dwell on devils or demons or start looking for them under every table or chair, or behind the door. But they are real and we need to know we are in a constant battle with them when we are seeking to live for the Lord. Satan doesn't need to attack those who are living apart from God's will. He has them where he wants them. But his plan is to attack and discourage the one who seeks to follow Christ. I believe firmly that Satan works his hardest on Sunday mornings. Answer honestly, what do you feel like doing on Sunday morning many times? You want to roll over and go back to sleep; or go play golf; or go on a picnic; or look at the weather and decide it's too bad to go to church. Right? How about your kids? Do they want to get ready to go to Sunday School and church?

God has shown in His Word how Satan attacks believers. The Apostle John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos and while there God gave him the visions of the book of Revelation. Turn to that book and let's look at the first chapter. In the 10th verse we read, (read verse 10-11). John is to receive information which he is to write down and send to the seven churches in Asia. Those were ~~actually~~ seven actual churches. In the 11th verse do you see which is the first church? It was the church at Ephesus. Why is it listed as number one? Because it was the first church and the other churches were born out of it. And incidentally, we can look at the churches of every age and classify them as the church of Ephesus, or Smyrna and so on. Each church in history can be compared to one of the seven according to what it is doing or not doing. But let us look at what John was to write to the first church at Ephesus. (Read verses 1-3). The church was strong and it stood against false teachers and leaders. But The Lord tells the church at Ephesus, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

This isn't John's words, these are the words of Jesus Himself to John. The Church at Ephesus had thrown the city into confusion. The city of Ephesus was the center for the worship of the goddess Diana. The temple of Diana in Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the world. Within that temple, scores of priestesses and prostitutes performed the sexual orgies that passed for religion. There were also the Nicolaitans which was a group of followers of a man named Nicholas who taught immorality also. The Church at Ephesus stood against this immoral climate and had prevailed. But Jesus told them they had lost their first love. What this simply means is that they had exchanged

their hot love for Christ into a cold orthodoxy. Their services had no joy, no enthusiasm as they once did. It was Ho-hum'sville when they worshiped. Can we make comparisons today? Do you have the same love for Christ you once had? If we love anything in this world, our families, our homes, our possessions more than we love Christ, then we too have lost our first love. If we are serving Christ in a dead ritualistic way, then we are missing the purpose of the Christian life.

All we need to do is to look at what is happening in the Christian Church today and we can readily answer the question of where the church stands today. If the world changes around it, the church seeks to adapt itself to the world. The church jumps on the bandwagon of the ~~new~~ world and ^{does} ~~do~~ what the world is doing. If the world's view of the family, or woman, or the home, or morality changes, the church has accepted this and said we must adapt to it, even when the Church knows it is anti-Biblical.

(Illustration of William Fore in Article - The Electronic Church)

They sit at home in front of their televisions, and the church comes to them. They don't have to get dressed and leave the house - it's a perfect environment. But it's only another part of the fantasy. Television is a fantasy, and our world wants to live in that fantasy. The church that comes into our homes is a perfect church. The music is unbelievable. It has a grand orchestra and ~~many~~ great singers. The preacher gives a perfect message. In the fantasy church you never have to sit next to anyone you don't like, no one ever ~~disturbs~~ disturbs you, and you don't have to find a place to park. All you have to do is send them a little money now and then to ease your conscience, and they will tell you you are winning the world. They may send you something you can plaster on your wall to prove how sacrificial you are. What a sad commentary on the church. The electronic church is built on entertainment. It duplicates the very things in the world that the church has always condemned. The electronic church is a mere expression of cultural religion, copying the value, glitter, and trappings of the very values and kinds of success that we as Christians profess to reject. Let's live in the real world. When the church is so snug and comfortable in its compromising position, it falls into the world's fantasy.

This is what Paul was calling the people of Ephesus from. Paul says in the 13th verse, (read this). We are to put on the protection which can only come from a true following of Christ.

(Illustration of Billy Sunday and "Fight on the Corner where you are")

The evangelist Billy Sunday was preaching in Cleveland for a week. Each night he noticed a little Italian man who sat down front on the aisle. The man seemed to be all wrapped up in the service and especially when they sang the last hymn. At that time they ~~close~~ closed the service each night with the hymn, "Brighten The Corner Where You Are." On the last night, Mr. Sunday determined that he just had to talk to this man. So before the man could get away, Mr. Sunday got to him and asked him about being there each night. The man told him that he liked the services, but he liked the singing best of all. And he liked to sing the last song, because he said he liked a good fight. When Mr. Sunday asked what he meant the man replied, "The last song tells us that, "Fight on the corner where you are."

That is exactly what Paul is admonishing the people in the Church of Ephesus to do. And that is exactly what we are called to do. We are here not to

drift and dream, but to "Fight on the corner where we are." We are to be about our "Defensive Strategy," in preparing ourselves to fight against Satan and his forces in the world. Are you willing to put on the armor of God and fight the battle more strongly in this new year? Has one of your resolutions been, or will one of your resolutions be to live closer to the Lord this year? To serve Him and love Him with the living of your life? I extend that invitation to you to begin living for Him.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 10, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Nicole Merrison

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 118 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) O thou who didst cause thy star to
shine on kings in realms afar, we pray that all the
kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of thy Son.
Teach us to speak the Word of the Gospel in the strange
lands of business and science, of school and shop, that
we may be the instruments through which thy will may
be done. Forgive our abuse of the name Christian by
hoarding it for ourselves and not sharing it in all
areas of our lives. These things we ask in His name.
Amen.

*Kyrrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 611 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Anthem: "Trust and Obey"
Scripture: Ephesians 6:14a
Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Belt"
*Invitational Hymn No. 613 "Fight the Good Fight"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by the
Women's Fellowship in memory of those called home in 1987.
Mrs. Diana Hollefreund will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.
Ushers for today are: Helen Riemer, Phyllis Tait, Alma
Dally and Shirley Thompson.
Attendance last Sunday was 126 with 12 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sue Gamble.
Howard Jaillet and Art Snyder will be visiting the hosp-
ital this week.

> Hospitalized: Doris Zavacky in BMH
SUNDAY - Youth Group at 7:00 P.M.
Bible Study group at 7:00
MONDAY - Activities Committee meeting at 6:30
Elders and Music Committee will meet at 7:30
TUESDAY - Sunday School Teachers meeting at 7:00
THURSDAY - Youth Choir practice from 6 to 7 P.M.
Chancel Choir will practice 7 to 8:30 P.M.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:
> January 17th - Youth will hold its Soup & Sandwich lunch
immediately following the service. Hope you join us.
January 18th - Finance Committee will meet at 7:00
January 19th - Auditing books will begin at 6:00 P.M.
Please check the schedule in the office.
We need volunteers to sign up for flowers. Dates needed are
January 24th, February 7th, and following months.
> Valentine Dinner plans are underway. This year it will be
held February 13th at 6:00 P.M. at the South Butler Fire-
hall. Price of the dinner is \$8.50 and the choice of
meats is stuffed chicken breast or braised steak. See
Marilyn Snyder or Bill & Ione Pflugh to put in your
reservation. Reservation deadline is February 4th.
> January 30th the Youth will hold a Spaghetti Dinner in the
hall. A real Italian chef has volunteered to come and
prepare the spaghetti. Tickets are now available from
Bob and Mary Jane. Make plans to come for "all you can
eat" and a good evening. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults,
and \$2.00 for children 8 and under. They are asking our
help by donating cakes for the dinner. If you can do so
please let Bob know.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond the God's leading for your
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself
of this opportunity.

"Defensive Dress: The Breastplate"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14B
 (Ilus man/womn lumbr yard & how long wantd boards)
 G giv ea persn lif 2B liv & mos peo liv fairly lng
 G desir dur that tim we liv we use livs 4His Glory
 but lif such that sun kno in constan struggl 2merly
 priv

But our Creatr nevr want this 2happn
 His Creatin perf/gud & nevr ment 2B that way
 but man sin, turn fr G & this caus sepratin fr G &
 constan warfar man fac is Bcuz this
 But G had plan so man cud restor 2-Himself thru Js
 & wen man has that relatsip w/G thru Xp he need
 sumthin Byon jus that relatsip & that is th purpos
 of th Ch of Js Xp

Th Ch aford ea Blievr optunt 2hav plac wher canB
 w/cthr Blievrs & 2gethr can liv/grc in faith
 This exac wat Apos P was think bout in dismal jail
 cel chain 2Rmn soddier
 he cudnt help but notic uniform of thez fite men
 Rome provid 2gard him

Ea pc had specil & unio purpos
 So P pictur ea thez pcs as sumth ea Blievr shud poses
 in warfar agin Satn & forces evil in th worl
 So P admonish yng ch at Eph 2put on Defensiv Dres
 4 this constan battl

In conversatin & observatin P lern use ea part &
 how soddier don uniform pc by pc
 So it is read chap 6 of thez pcs sp armr, but also pro
 gresin of how put on

Rmn soddier 1st put on belt-wen snug redy, loos-off
 We spok las wk P tel Blievr gird loins w/belt truth
 uth was atitud of truth or commitment of Blievr
 Nex, soddier put on Bresplate & this pc armr made 1-
 pc covr fr neck 2thighs & belt held Bresplat in plac
 P saw bresplat as rep ritusnes & ther sevr1 reasns:
 Th Jews Bliev 2parts body vulnrbl-hart & bowels
 2Jews hart symbolizly represent mind
 this why Js spok bout out of hart cum evil thots
 Jews Bliev bowels wer seat of emotins & feelings
 Scrip spk-bowels of mercy sevr1 places
 so only naturl lk mos vulnrbl parts body & seek 2
 protec them

Satn atck Blievr in 2vttl area-his think & emotins
 he wants feed our minds & emotins fals info
 he duz this w/fals doctrin, lies relig untruth
 he want us desir wat evil & he mak atractiv/desir
 this is wat prob w/in ch 2day jus as prob then, only
 much mor multiply many tims ovr sinc we hav advanc
 (Ilus teachr & litl Joe=& intelectul snobry)

fr this can G now Satn lul intelectul comunt 2/
 in2 Bliev that Blief in G is detriment 2educatin
 So it is P C Brestplat as prtectin of vttl area &
 he cal brestplat th pc of armr that is ritusnes
 But jus wat is P try 2say here:-vs 14B
 (Ilus Rev Gome & grad fr coleg-diploma)
 R' pones is lthoz thing 4wh cud say-Truthly ther less
 here than meets the eye

We try defin ritusnes we find very difficult & that
 due lrgly 2fac in odr 2C all of it we need try 2C
 it fr G's perspectiv

In Serm Mt Js say=Seek ye 1st th kingdm of G & His
 ritusnes
 th very 1st elmen of liv Xpian lif is 2seek G's rit-
 usnes 1st-not 2nd, or 3rd, but FIRST

Now jus wat is that ritusnes?
 The 1st of all-Imputed Ritusnes & this is ritusnes
 wh is imputed, or givn, it is handed ovr 2anothr
 this ritusnes evry Blievr receiv fr & thru Js Xp
 It not ritusnes that earnd, or deserv, it ritusnes
 that ours only thru Xp alon

We receiv Him as Sav, then hav imput ritusnes
 But this not wat P writ bout

He writ wat Puritans called-Imptd ritusnes
 this ritusnes whon by how liv
 wat is ment is step by step proces; actuly it a
 moment by moment impart or giv of ritus liv 4 God

Fr this canC Belt & Breastplate R very closely conec
 It is comitment 2caus of Xp & practicl liv wh wil
 win batl of lif in th warfar we involv in
 (Ilus burro & steer)

As we struggl w/lif may find self ty up real close &
 I thap it seem no soonr get ovr lprob, nothr tak place

But G kno wat we go thru & He kn our faith grows &
 as duz our stubborn Xpian atitud continu 2lead us hos
 We mayB abus, & hurt, & seem lik ther no end our probs
 But G wil enabl us 2get 2our feet tim afr tim &
 mov 2ward home

lday we wil stan B4 th thron of our Sav & we wil
 kno it has bin worth it

But we need 2B ty 2Him in this lif
 As U think Ur persnl struggl w/lif, watevr Ur probs
 mayB, jus reach out 2Him & tak His hand in Urs &
 liv 4 Him

That is invitatin 2ea us ovr & ovr agin
 Wil U tak His invitatin & cum 2 Him?

(Ilus copple at lumbr yard)

(Ilus teachr littl Joe-intelectul snobry)

(Ilus Rev Come & grad diploma)

Ther les here than meets th eye

impute ritusnes

impart ritusnes

(Ilus burro & steer)

"Defensive Dress: The Belt"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14A

(Illustration of Battle of Waterloo and The Duke of Wellington)

In the Battle of Waterloo at one particular point the battle was raging fiercely. An officer galloped up to the commanding officer of the British forces, the Duke of Wellington to report that the troops could no longer hold their position, and they needed reinforcements. The Duke of Wellington told him, "Tell your officer in charge to stand." The soldier galloped back and told his superior. Shortly, another officer came to the Duke with the same request and the answer was the same, "Tell him to stand." Yet a third officer came with the same news and the Duke replied, "I have no help to send, Tell him to stand." This officer saluted and replied, "You will find us there, Sir," and galloped off. When the battle was over and the British had fought and won, there they all were, all of them, dead in their place. They had stood even though ~~xxx~~ to stand meant death.

This is the advice that Paul gives to the members of the Church of Jesus Christ, specifically to the Church at Ephesus and generally to all churches throughout the world. ~~Stand there~~ "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore."

The command is to "Stand," and that means to be planted and rooted firmly in the faith. When Martin Luther had withstood the Roman Catholic Church and stood before his accusers and was asked to recant, to take back what he had said and done, he replied, "I can do no else, so help me God, here I stand." He was standing upon the unshakeable faith which was his in Christ. But more than this he was taking his stand on what Paul stated next after having written, "Stand therefore."

This was a rather strange and unique situation which prompted Paul to write as he did. Compared to the normal reaction of a prisoner, Paul was the exact opposite. Normally, every prisoner has only one thing in mind and that is to be freed from where he is imprisoned. Paul would have desired this too, but instead of bemoaning the fact that he was in prison and expending all of his efforts to gain his release, Paul took advantage of his time in prison to write letters to the churches which he had started before he was imprisoned. The picture is this: Paul is imprisoned in a Roman jail. But since he was a political prisoner and in need of protection from others who wanted to take his life, Paul was chained 24 hours a day to a Roman soldier. Only eternity will reveal how many of those guards Paul led to the Lord and converted because Paul does not write this and brag of it. But from his writings we glean that Paul took those opportunities to share the Gospel with his guards. As Paul ponders the needs of the Church in Ephesus, he thinks of the past from which the members of that church came. All of them had risen above the mystery religions which abounded in that city and all others like it. In those religions there were no ~~sin~~ solutions to the problems of life. Supposedly it was all tied up in the mystery of whatever god or goddess they were following and supposedly only a few gained that knowledge.

So constantly each initiate of those religions sought to get closer to the inner mystery, but were always thwarted and ~~frustrated~~ never got to the actual truth. So when Paul came along with his simple message of God's love given through Jesus Christ and this cleared up the mystery of life, many of these people jumped at the opportunity to become followers of Christ. Thus a church was formed and it began to exert its influence in Ephesus.

But the immoral and idolatrous background from which the church came from ~~it~~ was still there and the leaders of those godless movements exerted their influence to pull the members of that church from their new found faith. With this in mind, Paul realized that these new Christians were involved in a battle for their very existence. And he recognized that this battle was being led by none other than Satan himself. As he reasoned how to fight this battle Paul knew that in order to win, the believer had to be properly prepared. It is one thing to know that you are going to fight against something but it another thing to have the proper preparation. So as Paul thinks through this situation he looks at his circumstances and from them, is able to equip the believer with that which is necessary for the battle. Paul is literally chained to a Roman soldier and these men were the best fighting men in the world at that time. But in order for them to be the best, they had to have the best equipment. So Paul looks at the dress of the Roman soldier and he uses their equipment as illustrations for the equipment a believer must have in the spiritual battle he faces and fights against Satan and his demons in the world.

Thus Paul begins by saying, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth," Ephesians 6:14A.

Paul, being the good Jew that he was, remembered the instructions which God had given the Israelites when they departed from Egypt as recorded in the second book of the Law which Moses wrote, the book of Exodus. There in that book, the 12th chapter God gave instructions to the people what they were to do. They were to prepare the ~~lamb~~ Passover lamb and to eat it that night.

In the 11th verse of that chapter God ~~said~~ said, "And thus ~~ye~~ shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover."

Paul could compare those ancient Jews girding their loins with the Roman ~~ex~~ soldier in front of him because there was a similarity. The people of the time of Moses and down to the time of Paul wore long robes. The robes served the purpose of clothing them and providing protection from the elements. But they hampered a person in the performance of their duty. If a person has to be very active, or even run, he couldn't do it with the robes as it was. So in order to be able to run or move fast, the robe was ~~up~~ pulled up to the waist and tucked into the girdle or belt worn around the middle. The tunic of the Roman soldier was similar in the respect that it was a square piece of cloth, with a hole cut out for the head and holes cut out for the arms.

It too hung down rather long and ~~was fast~~ a belt was worn around the middle. For battle, the ends of the tunic were pulled up into the belt and as Paul said, "The loins were girt about."

But Paul uses this illustration to tell the believer to have his loins girt about with ~~the~~ truth. Now what did he mean by this?

Paul was talking about the leather belt the Roman soldier wore around his middle. This belt served to keep the tunic pulled in, but it was also the piece of equipment from which hung his scabbard for his sword. Paul did not mean that the belt was the truth, but that it supported the truth. We will cover that subject about the content of truth in another lesson. What Paul is an attitude of truth. When the belt is on the soldier, and his tunic is tucked into the belt, the soldier is in an attitude of readiness. He is prepared at that point to engage in the battle. The truth Paul is talking about here is "Commitment." How committed we are reveals the truth about us. To be committed means to be not only prepared, but to be preparing. That is what separates the true-believer from those who are just going through the motions. I'm certain that most of us at one time or another have known someone who is deeply spiritual and more advanced than we are. And then when that person by something said or done shows up our lack of what they have, we have made some sly remark about them, because we recognize their spiritual superiority over us and it disturbs us, because secretly we would like to be like them, but we are unwilling to put forth the commitment necessary to bring about that change. It's somewhat like the story of the chicken and the pig which you have heard before I'm sure, but which bears repeating.

(Illustration of chicken and pig and total commitment)

A chicken and a pig were walking past a church one Sunday. The chicken said to the pig, "Over the years those people in there have been good to us. I think we ought to do something nice for them." "Good idea," said the pig, "What do you have in mind?" "I think we ought to have a big banquet," the chicken answered. "I'm all for that," said the pig. "But what will we serve them to eat?" "Bacon and eggs," said the chicken. "Not on your life!" said the pig. "For you that's just a contribution, for me it's a total commitment."

How committed are we? Are we preparing to be totally committed?

(Illustration of Teddy Stallard, & school teacher Miss Thompson)

Miss Thompson was a school teacher who was very conscientious and tried to treat all of her students the same. But there was one little boy ~~in~~ who was difficult for even her to like. He wasn't an attractive child, his schoolwork was horrendous, and his attitude wasn't much better. His name was Teddy Stallard and he didn't seem to be interested in school. Miss Thompson felt a great deal of resentment toward Teddy. She almost enjoyed giving him "F's". There was something about him that rubbed her the wrong way. She knew his background. His school records indicated that in the first grade he showed some promise, but he had problems at home. In the second grade his mother fell ~~ill~~ seriously ill and Teddy started falling behind. In the third grade Teddy's mother died. Teddy was tagged as a slow learner. In the fourth grade he was far behind. His teacher's knew that his father had no interest in Teddy's progress. Miss Thompson knew Teddy's situation but there was just something about him that she resented.

Christmas time came and the boys and girls in Miss Thompson's class brought her some gifts. To her surprise among those gifts was a crudely wrapped present from Teddy. Opening it in front of the other children she discovered a gaudy rhinestone bracelet, with half the stones missing, and a bottle of cheap perfume. She saw that some of the other children were beginning to smirk and laugh at the simple gift. "O Miss Thompson had the presence of mind to put on the bracelet and open the perfume and put some on her wrist which she asked the other children to smell. "Isn't this bracelet lovely?" she asked the children. "Doesn't this perfume smell lovely?" At this the children responded with "oohs" and "aahs." At the end of the school day, little Teddy came to Miss Thompson's desk and said, "Miss Thompson Miss Thompson, you smell just like my mother and the bracelet looks real pretty on you too. I'm glad you liked my presents. Miss Thompson thanked Teddy and had to turn away so he didn't see the tears in her eyes. When he was gone, she knelt by her desk and asked God to forgive her attitude toward this poor little boy. It seemed from that day on Teddy Stallard became a new pupil and Miss Thompson became a new teacher. Teddy's attitude and his grades dramatically improved. eight years later, Miss Thompson received a letter from Teddy telling her that he was graduating from High School second in his class. Four years later she received a letter telling her that he was graduating first in his class from college. Both of those letters were signed Love, Teddy Stallard. Four more years passed and Miss Thompson received a letter from Teddy informing her that he had just graduated from medical school and he was now Dr. Theodore Stallard. Also he was getting married. His father was now dead, and would Miss Thompson be willing to sit where his mother would sit for the wedding if she were still alive? He closed his letter by saying, "You are all the family I have left now," and signed it, "Love, Teddy." Miss Thompson sat proudly where Teddy's mother would have sat for that wedding. That moment of complete sensitivity and commitment many years before had earned her that right. It was at the wedding that Teddy told her the bracelet had been his mother's as well as the bottle of perfume.

How badly do you want to win in the Christian life in this world? Are you preparing for the battle each day? Are you praying more? Are you reading God's word? Are you involved in the fun things of the church, and the spiritual things like Bible Study and Sunday School? If you are not, how can you equip yourself for the battle? It takes more than just having one piece of the "Defensive Dress" in place to fight the battles of the war we are involved in. Will you seek to be more committed starting today? God invites us to do so. Will you accept His invitation?

But this isn't what Paul was writing about. He was writing about what is called, "Imparted righteousness." This is righteousness that is shown by how we live. The Puritans were the ones to coin this phrase of imparted righteousness and they meant that it was a step by step process. It was actually a moment by moment imparting, or giving of righteous living for God.

From this we can see that the belt and the breastplate are very closely connected. It is commitment to the cause of Christ and practical living which will win the battle of life in the warfare we are involved in.

(Illustration of burro and steer)

One morning a couple of cowpunchers went out on the range to bring in a steer that had been running loose. ~~xxxxxxx~~ They took with them a shaggy little gray donkey - a burro. Now a three-year-old steer that's been running loose is a tough customer to handle. But these cowboys had a technique for handling this animal. They roped the steer and then they tied him neck and neck with the donkey and turned them loose. At first the donkey had a bad time of it. The steer threw him all over the place. He banged him against trees and rocks, and into the bushes. Time after time ~~he~~ they both went down. ~~But there were two differences between the animals. The steer had been running loose and wanted to remain free. But the donkey was very stubborn and it also wanted to go home. No matter how the steer tried to throw him, every time the donkey got to his feet he moved toward the home corral. This went on and on, but after about a week the donkey showed up at the corral and with him, was the sorriest, tamest looking steer that ranch ever saw.~~ But there were two differences between the animals. The steer had been running loose and wanted to remain free. But the donkey was very stubborn and it also wanted to go home. No matter how the steer tried to throw him, every time the donkey got to his feet he moved toward the home corral. This went on and on, but after about a week the donkey showed up at the corral and with him, was the sorriest, tamest looking steer that ranch ever saw.

As we struggle with life, we may find ourselves feeling tied up real close and perhaps it seems as though we no sooner get through one problem, another one or two, or more take its place. But God knows what we are going through and He knows that as our faith grows, ~~we~~ our stubborn Christian attitude will continue to lead us home. We may be abused, and hurt, and seem like there is no end to our problems. But God will enable us to get to our feet time after time and move toward home. One day, we will stand before the throne of our Saviour and we will know that it has been worth it. But we need to be tied to Him in this life.

As you think of your personal struggle with life, whatever your problems may be, just reach out to Him and take His hand in yours, and live for Him. That is His invitation to each of us over and over again. Will you take His invitation and come to Him?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 17, 1988
Mrs. Kitty Feder, Organist
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Meron Hewis and Jimmy Shearer

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 526 "Faith of Our Fathers"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Eternal Father, teach us in the days of this year to discover the preciousness of time. Keep us from squandering our hours in senseless thought and useless activities. Help us through good books, clean conversation, and creative action to so number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom, and a life devoted to the reconciling ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Agnus

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 348 "Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

*Offering

Offertory "He Touched Me" (saxophone accompaniment)

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "There's A Quiet Understanding"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14B

Lesson: "Defensive Dress: The Breastplate"

*Invitational Hymn No. 266 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Congregation Standing

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. & Mrs. George MacKinney in honor of their 51st Wedding Anniversary today.

Mrs. Alma Killean will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are members of St. Paul's Youth Group.

Attendance last Sunday was 129 with 7 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sue Gamble.

Dick Dally and Marly Henry will be visiting the hospital this week.

*Hospitalized: Doris Zavacky in Allegheny General in Pitts.

SUNDAY - Youth Group at 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY - Finance Committee at 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY - Auditing of all treasurers books. Check schedule in office for your time.

THURSDAY - Youth Choir practice at 6:00 P.M.

Chancel choir will practice at 7:00 P.M.

Upcoming dates to remember:

January 24th - Immediately following the service the Lay, Life and Work Comm. will hold a brief meeting in the Library.

January 30th - Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the Youth of the church. You may purchase your tickets from Bob Weisenstein. We also need some cakes donated for the dinner. Please help.

Valentine Dinner plans are now in the works. February 13 at 6:00 P.M. at the South Butler Firehall. Price for the meal is \$8.50 each with a choice of stuffed chicken breasts or braised steak. Come join us for some fellowship and fun. See Ione & Bill Pflugh or Marilyn Snyder.

For the next three weeks the choir will be on TV. This is part of the community church services that are taped for Channel 30. Each week will be at the same times, but each service is different. Sunday at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday at 9:00 A.M., and Thursday at 1:00 P.M.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

CHURCH ~~UNIT~~ YOU 2 C - JAN-31-88

"Defensive Messy: The Belt"
 Scripture: Ephesians 6:14
 (Ilus battl Waterloo & "stand")
 thir advic I giv membris ch Js Xp specif Ch at Eph &
 genrly 2nd 3rd thruout worl
 vss 13-14a comand is 2stand & mean=2E plant,root firm
 in th faith
 As Martin Luther=Here I stand so help me God)
 Luther stan of faith,but lik I sed=stand ther4
 unique strng situ crospt I 2writ as did
 cp 2norml reactin prisnr, do oposit
 norml evr prisnr only seek 2E freed & I desir this ?
 but insted Broan fac in prisn I tak advantr I writ
 letters 2 Ch's start 24 inprisn
 pictur I in kom prisn,sinc politcl prisnr,hav hard
 24hr day;he chain to his
 only strng reveal how many thez I led 2 Xp
 fr writrs gleam tuk optuntiy 2 spk thier
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 ther wer no real ansrs 2lifs probs
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 simpl Gospol messag 2's luv thru Js Xp,thez peo jump
 at chanc 2Bcom folow'rs of Js
 so Ch form & Broan exer influ on Eph
 but godles,imoral bakrr stil ther & ldrs thoz movmen
 exer influ 2pul membris fr nu fnd faith
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 & battl 4ther very existenc & he recog battl R led by
 nun othr than Catn himself
 As reason how fite this battl,I knu in ord 2win Eliev
 ph 2B properly prep
 so 1 thing 2kno 2-3 go 2fite agin sumth,if nothr ?
 hav prop prep
 so as I lk this situ thinks of his circum & fr them
 is abl 2equip Eliev w/that wh neces 4 th batl
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 but in ord 2B th bes,they had 2hav equip
 I lks at Dres of Romn soldr & he use equip as ilus 4
 th equip Eliev rus hav in sp batl face & fites agin
 atn & his demons in worl
 Thus I 2bin by say Vs 14a
 I 2rud Jew was,remem instructs I giv 2aites wen depar
 fr Egypt as record 2nd buk Law Mose wrot=Ex 13:11
 I cud cp thoz ancient Jews fird loins w/Tomn soldr
 in front of him 2ouz ther was simlarty
 (xpl lng robes & pul up tween legs & in2 firdl 'belt
 Romn tunic sq cloth holes 4hed,arms & leathr belt

I use this ilus 2001 Eliev hav loins fird bout
 w/truth
 Now wat did he mean?
 I was talk bout leathr belt Romn soldr wor rnd waist
 belt serv 2keep tunic pul in,but also pc equip fr
 wh hung scabard 4sword
 I mean belt was truth,but suport truth
 w I covr subj bout content of truth nothr messag
 wat I spk bout is atitud of truth
 wen belt on soldr,& tunic tuk in2 belt,soldr in ati-
 tud of redines
 He prep at that pt 2enar in battl
 Th truth I talk bout here is=Comitment
 How comit we R reveal truth bout us
 2B comit mean 2B not only prep,but 2B prepin
 that wat seprat tru Eliev fr thoz jus go thru th
 rotins
 (easpl sp persn Even us,& slurs,remarks mak Eucz we
 recogniz suprior spirituality ovr us & wud lik 2B
 lik them)
 But analys & C we 2 unwill 2mak neces ~~xxxxx~~ comit
 bring bout that chang & sumwat lik story chikn/pig
 (Ilus chikn/pig & total comitment)
 How comitted R we? R we prepar 2B totly comited?
 (Ilus Teddy Stallard & teacher Miss Thompson)
 Now badly do U want 2win in th xpian lif in this worl
 R U prep 4th battl ea day?
 R U praying mor?
 R U reading 22 God's Word?
 R U involv in th fun things of th ch,& th sp
 things lik Sunday School & Bibl Study?
 If U R not, how can U equip Urself 4th battl?
 It take mor than jus hav a pc of Defensiv Dres in
 plac 2fite th batle of th war we R involv in
 Will U seek 2B mor comit start 2day?
 G invite us 2do so
 Will U acpt His invitatin?

(Ilus Battl Watrloo & Stand)

vss 13-14A=Stand

(Ilus Martin Luthr=Here I stan,so help me

P-rison & Ch Eph at war

vs 14A

12:11

(expl robes & gird up)

(Ilus chicken & pig)

(Ilus Teddy Stallard & teachr Miss Thomas)

"Defensive Dress: The Breastplate"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14B

(Illustration of couple at lumber yard, "we want them for a long time")
A couple who were not too bright went to a lumberyard to buy some 2x4's. The man at the yard said, "We don't have 2x4's but we have some 4x2's." The husband said, "I'll have to talk to my wife." He went out to the truck and talked to her, came back and said, "We can use 4x2's, we want 300 of them." The man then asked, "How long do you want them?" The husband again said, "I'll have to talk to my wife." He went out to the truck and came back and said, "We want them for a long time, we're building a house with them."

God gives each person a life to be lived and for the most ~~part~~ people live for a fairly long time. God desires that during the time we live we use our lives for His Glory. But life is such that we soon know that we are involved in a constant struggle to merely survive. But our Creator never wanted this to ~~happen~~ happen. His creation was perfect and good and was meant to remain that way. But man sinned and turned from God and this caused the separation from God and the constant warfare man faces each day of his life. But God had a plan that man could be restored to ~~himself~~ Himself through Jesus Christ. And when man has that relationship with God through Christ, he needs something beyond just that relationship and that is the purpose of the church of Jesus Christ. The church affords each believer the opportunity to have a place where he can be with other believers and together they can live and grow in the faith.

This is exactly what the Apostle Paul was thinking about ~~when he was in~~ in his dismal jail cell chained to a Roman soldier. He couldn't help but notice the uniform of these fighting men Rome provided. Each piece had a special and unique purpose. So Paul pictured each of those pieces of the uniform as something each believer should possess in the warfare against Satan and the forces of evil in the world. So Paul admonishes the young church at Ephesus to put on the "Defensive Dress" for this continual battle. In conversation and observation, Paul learned the use of each part and how the soldier donned his uniform piece by piece.

So it is that we read in this 6th chapter of Ephesians of these pieces of spiritual armor, but also the progression used in putting them on. The Roman soldier first put on his belt. When the belt was pulled up tight or snug, the soldier was ready for battle. When he loosened it, he was off duty. We spoke last week of Paul telling the believer to have his loins girded with the belt of "Truth." And the truth Paul was talking about was actually the attitude of truth, or commitment to Christ. Next, the Roman soldier placed on the "Breastplate." This was a piece of armor, made in one piece which extended from the shoulders down to the thighs. The belt also held the Breastplate in place. Paul saw the Breastplate as representing ~~the~~ righteousness. There are several reasons for this. The Jews believed that two parts

of the body were very vulnerable. These were the heart and the bowels. To the Jew the heart symbolically represented the mind. This is why Jesus spoke to the people about the heart and evil thoughts coming from it. The Jew believed that the bowels were the seat of feelings and emotions. Scripture speaks of "Bowels of mercy," in several places. So it is only natural to look at the most vulnerable parts of the body and seek to protect them. Satan attacks the believer in two vital areas, his thinking and his emotions. He wants to feed our minds and our emotions false information. He does ~~witth~~ this with false doctrine, lies, and religious untruth. He wants us to desire that which is evil and wrong and he makes it look attractive and desirable. This is the problem within the church today just as it was the problem then, But the difference is that it is multiplied many times over because we have advanced so much more academically.

(Illustration of little Joe & teacher not smart enough to teach him again, plus intellectual snobbery against Christianity)

From this we can see how Satan has lulled the intellectual community into believing that belief in God is a detriment to education. So it is that Paul sees the Breastplate as protection of the vital areas and he calls the Breastplate the piece of armor that is righteousness.

~~xxxxxxxx~~

Just what is Paul trying to say here?

(Illustration of Rev. Gomes & his commencement from college)

Rev. Gomes says of his graduation day, "I remember when I got my diploma several years ago -- it was an exciting day, with all the processions, the ceremony, the talks by the speakers who told us about our responsibility to save the world. I remember after I got my diploma in hand, as the crowd began to disperse and I looked around me past the stadium to the city beyond and then began to think of the world that lay beyond this city. I looked at my diploma again, then back at the city and the world and as I turned again to the diploma, from out of nowhere, those famous words of Tallulah Bankhead suddenly came into my mind, "Truly there is less here than meets the eye."

Righteousness is one of those things for which we could say, "Truly there is less here than meets the eye." When we try to define righteousness we find it very difficult. That is ~~laxly~~ largely due to the fact that in order to see all of it we need to try to see it from God's perspective.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

The very first element of living the Christian life is to seek God's righteousness FIRST. Not second, or third, but FIRST. Now what is that righteousness? There is first of all what is called, "Imputed righteousness." This is the righteousness which is given, that's what imputed means. It is handed over to another. This is the righteousness that every believer receives from and through Jesus Christ. It is not righteousness that is earned, or deserved. It is righteousness that is ours through Christ alone. When we receive Him as our Saviour, then we have His imputed righteousness in our lives.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 24, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Jimmy Shearer and Meron Hewis
+ + + + + ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M. + + + + +

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 528 "God of Grace and God of Glory"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) Forgive us for our sins against ourselves; the bitterness of spirit which we have suffered to rob us of peace of mind; the aimlessness which has led us in different directions, and our blindness which has closed our eyes to the glory of life. Forgive us, Our Father, for our sins against thee: our contentment with ourselves and disregard of thy better ways; our refusal of thy call, and wilful disobedience to the heavenly visitors given us; and the timidity which has kept us back from seeking thee and finding thee. Teach us to hate our sins as thou hatest them, and to love righteousness as thou lovest us; and help us henceforth to walk uprightly before thee in the power of thy Spirit. Amen.

*Kyrle
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria patri
Hymn No. 51 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology
Antiphon: "Come, Christians Join To Sing"
Scripture: Ephesians 6:15
Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Shoes"
*Invitational Hymn No. 595 "Lead On, O King Eternal"
*Closing Chimes
*Benedic'

*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki in memory of Loved Ones.
Mrs. Gladys Fair will greet the congregation and our guests at the door this morning.
Ushers for today are Dick Mangel, Don Kingsley, Dick Dally, and George Pflugh.
Attendance last Sunday was 123 with 9 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Michelle Henry.
Marie Henry, Helen Riemer and Bonnie Cannon will be visiting the hospital this week. *Bill Thompson*
Hospitalized: Doris Zavacky in Allegheny General Hosp.
Charlie Penar in Butler

SUNDAY - Youth group at 7:00
Immediately following the service today there will be a brief Lay, Life & Work Comm. meeting.

THURSDAY - Youth Choir practice at 6:00 P.M.
Chancel choir practice at 7:00

SATURDAY - Orchestra practice at 10:30 A.M.

> *VALENTINE DINNER - will be held on February 13th at 6:00 P.M. at the South Butler Firehall. Choice of dinner is stuffed chicken breasts, or braised steak. Price is \$8.50 per person. Please make your reservation through Marilyn Snyder or Bill & Ione Pflugh. Deadline is February 4th.

> The Choir will be on TV again this week. Beginning Sunday at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday at 1:00 P.M. This is on Channel 30. They will again be on TV the following week at the same times.

> *SPAGHETTI DINNER that the Youth are sponsoring is being held on January 30th from 4 to 7 P.M. Tickets are now available through Bob & Mary Lane. Please come join us, support the Youth on this project. By the way they are still in need of a few cakes for dessert. Invite any and all of your relatives, friends, and neighbors. Price is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.00 children 8 and under. The Youth are also collecting Newspapers for recycling. Please keep yours and bring them into church with you on Sundays and put them in the coat room, and we will take care of them. Thanks for all your support!

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

"Defensive Dress: The Shoes"
 Scripture: 1 Thess 5:15
 (Plus futur minstra 2 Bliefs Aug 1961)
 Reven, that bat 1961 & since then librl think/teach
 as increas tremen
 In Aug in 73, ing clergy sed U. widB lik them 25yrs
 bout 15yr conby & canC this in 6 2day
 (Plus Xpian writr bout apostst body no-cum bak fundy)
 All this shud pt us 2sabr fac we involv warfar, sed
 wud cum uon th ch
 we hav seen unparalel swing 2lef of mainlin Prot st
 denoms & th ridicul of any clergy/cong who stan on
 fundys of faith
 wen Js pr/teach 2muls in 2nd yr of minstry, lnce taut
 fr boat; tol them parbl of sowr-Mt 13:38-19
 wat Js say-simply wen persn Ecum Blievr, opn lif 2
 atn Ecuz persn turn fr B worly individ, 2cum sp
 persn & atn no let hapn w/out fite
 He try evry conceivbl way 2turn persn fr a & th
 things of G & put persn in possibl fr 2nd 2nd Js Xp
 Hapn no only idivid livs, but wongs/denoms as wel
 we find espec tru wen persn nu Blievr, bab in Xp
 This wat I talk bout wen writ Ch 1rk & say-4:14
 Wen Blievr jus chil in faith, atn sen flud fals doct
 his way & toss & fro 2confus & bary away fr truth
 2let all Blivr kno batl enrag in I writ-6:12
 Need 2kno no matr how lng liv, whthr nu/bin lng in
 faith-we I wrestl, or fite 4our sp livs
 In it no Ecum easier, in fac, get wors mos of tim
 That why I say Need 2hol Arm of G
 or hav sed Xpian need put on Belt Truth, & Emplate
 or ritusnes, I now say-vs 15
 I saw shoes worn by 2arm gards; mad thik lethr & held
 on feet by thik lethr straps
 On sole-pcs metal made hobnail lik futbol shoes
 c eats mak possibl dig in & no slip/slide
 I saw thez soldiers redy 4batl & so say-vs 15
 But wat was Blievr 2B prep 4:
 I say-vs 15B
 ther thoz vu pasaz as coman 2co & preach Gospl
 But that 2ncorec this pt
 Notic I no say anyth bout mov rnd
 ther no coman 2co
 his directins fnd in prev vs-vs 13C; 14a
 Th coman is 2 tand & this no rean 2mov out
 Insted, rean 2stan, or 2 redy 2mov out w/Gospl; 2B prep
 4watevr event is 2cum
 (Plus Xpian Hertr & lady giv out chickn)
 This was worn knu positin & wasnt bout 2B intimidatd
 by anyl

Do U kno of positin.
 R U standing firm wher G wants U 2B & 2stand?
 R U prep 2mov out in His name?
 Th Blievr is 2B prep I say w/Gospl of Peace
 Jus wat duz this mean?
 Siml state it is Gospl Js Xp
 man w/his semratin fr G Ecuz of sin, was reconcil 2 G
 thru th shed blud of Js Xp & Ecuz of Js shedding his
 blud He pd pric neces 2mak peac w/God
 Th Gospl of peac is simply fac that war tween G &
 men is end wen presn cum 2th sav knowledr & acertanc
 of sp as I & 2av
 (Plus skul teacher tutor boy cupos 2dy fr burns)
 But this is exacly wat G did
 He step in 2dy worl 2restor peac wh bin brokn by th
 warfar of sin
 He did exacly ~~oposit~~ oposit of wat expec
 & so it incumbent on thoz who hav receiv that peac
 2B prep 2shar it w/worl in wh we liv
 we R 2stan w/belton, bresplate protec us fr blows of
 Satn wh wud wnd us severly & we 2hav propr shoes on
 redy 2mov out 4th Iord
 Th victory is availb 4 our livs
 But it 2cum quest whethr U want 2win
 A U dres 4th batl w/commitment?
 R U seek 2liv holy lif?
 R U fr feet rootd & grnded in G & things of G?
 If not, now is tir 2prep
 G is invit us 2get prep now, 2day.

Redbuk-Aug 61 futur minstrs & Bliefs

56% rejec Virgn birth Js Xp

71% rejec ther lif aftr deth

54% rejec bodly resurectin Js Xp

98% rejec persnl return Js Xp on erth

Xrian writr wrot:

stry has show that lnce a skul or ch
compromises its positin & sels short th
fundmentl doctrins of th Word that ther
is no chanc of ther go bak 2retriev that
wh they orignaly adherd to.

Not in 1 instanc has ther bin an apostat
body that has return 2 fundamentalism.

Mt 13:18-19

Eph 4:14

6:12A

(Ilus Christian Herter at barbeque/chickn

(Ilus teachr tutr boy 2dy fr burns)

"Defensive Dress: The Shoes"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:15

(Illustration of future ministers and beliefs)

One of the first exposures of the beliefs of our future ministers was made by Redbook magazine in August of 1961. The publishers hired one of the top pollsters in the nation to survey a full representation of our seminaries which are supposedly preparing men for Christian service in the Protestant churches. Here are some of the results:

Of the ministers in training:

56% rejected the virgin birth of Jesus Christ

71% rejected that there was life after death

54% rejected the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ

98% rejected that there would be a personal return of Jesus Christ on this earth.

Remember, that was back in 1961. Since then the liberal thinking and teaching has increased tremendously. When I was in England in 1973 the English clergy were predicting that in about 25 years the churches in America would be as empty and pitiful as theirs. About 15 years have gone by and we can readily see and read of this in our nation today. A Christian writer speaking of the plight of our American church scene tells us:

"History has shown that once a school or church compromises its position and sells short the fundamental doctrines of the Word that there is no chance of their going back to retrieve that which they originally adhered to. Not in one instance has there been an apostate body that has returned to fundamentalism."

All of this should point us to the sobering fact that we are indeed involved in the warfare Paul so readily said would come upon the church. We have seen an unparalleled swing to the left of the Mainline Protestant denominations and the ridiculing of any clergy or congregation who continues to stand on the fundamentals of the faith.

When Jesus was preaching and teaching to the multitudes in the 2nd year of His ministry, He once taught them from a boat. It was then that He told them a parable of the sower. Matthew records this parable and then he tells of the interpretation of that parable and in the 13th chapter of Matthew in the 18th verse we read: "Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower." And the 19th verse begins, "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside."

What Jesus was saying is simply that when a person becomes a believer, he opens his life to Satan because that person has turned from being a worldly individual, to becoming a spiritual one and Satan cannot let that happen. So Satan tries in any conceivable way to turn that person from God and the things of God, and pulls the person if possible from being a follower of Jesus Christ. It happens not only in individuals lives, but in congregations and denominations as well. We find this especially true when the person is just a new believer, or a babe in Christ. That is what Paul was talking about when he wrote to the church at Ephesus as recorded in the 4th chapter, the

14th verse, (read this verse). When a believer is just a child in the faith, Satan sends a flood of false doctrine his way to toss him to and fro, to confuse him and carry him away from the truth.

To let all believers know the battle we are engaged in, he wrote in the 6th chapter of this letter, in the 12th verse, "For we wrestle," We need to know that no matter how long we live, whether we are new Christians or have been long in the faith, we are wrestling, or fighting for our very spiritual lives. It just doesn't become easier. In fact, it gets worse most of the time.

That is why Paul says we need the "whole armor" of God.

After having said that the Christian needs to put on the Belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness, Paul says we are to have our "Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace."

Paul saw the shoes worn by his Roman guards. They were made of thick leather and were held on the soldier's feet by leather straps. But they were more than just leather. On the soles were pieces of metal which protruded from the sole. They were similar to football shoes in that they had what could be called "cleats" to dig in on certain types of terrain. They kept the feet of the soldier from slipping when engaged in battle. Paul saw from this that the soldier was adequately prepared for battle. So he says, "With your feet shod with the preparation."

But what was the believer to be prepared for? Paul's reason for having on proper shoes is for the "Preparation of the Gospel of peace."

There are those who view this passage as a command to go and preach the Gospel. But that is incorrect at this point. Notice that Paul says nothing about moving around. There is no command to "go." His directions are to be found in previous verses. In the 13th verse he says, "And having done all to stand." In the 14th verse he says, "stand therefore." So the command is still, "To stand." This doesn't mean that the believer is not to move out. Instead, it means he is to "stand" or be ready to move out with the Gospel. To be prepared in other words.

(Illustration of Christian Herter and chicken at barbeque)

Christain Herter former Secreatary of State was running for reelection as Governor of Massachusetts. He arrived late at a barbeque. ~~Maxine~~ He'd had no breakfast or lunch and he was famished. As he moved down the serving line he received one piece of chicken. He said to the serving lady, "Excuse me, do you mind if I have another piece of chicken, I'm ver hungry." The woman replied, "Corry, I'm supposed to give one piece to each person." He repeated, "But I'm starved," and again she said: "Only one piece to a customer."

At this, Mr. Herter who was normally a modest man, decided this was the time to pull a little rank. So he said, "Madam, do you know who I am? I'm the governor of this state."

She answered, "And do you know who I am? I'm the lady in charge of chicken. Move along buster."

This was a woman who knew her position and wasn't about to be intimidated by anyone. Do we know our position? Are we standing firm where God wants us to stand? Are we prepared to move out in His name?

The believer is to be prepared Paul is saying with the Gospel of peace. And just what does that mean? Simply stated it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ Man with his separation from God because of sin, was reconciled to God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and because of Jesus shedding His blood, He paid the price necessary to make peace with God. The Gospel of Peace is simply the fact that the war between man and God is ended when ~~xx~~ a person comes to the saving knowledge and acceptance of Christ as Lord and Saviour.

(Illustration of school teacher tutoring a boy scheduled to die of his burns) Several years ago a school teacher ~~xxxxxxxx~~ assigned to visit children in a large city hospital on a regular basis to tutor them during their illnesses, received a routine call ~~from~~ to visit a certain boy. The teacher on the other end of the line said, "We're studying nouns and adverbs and I'd be grateful if you would help him with his homework so he doesn't fall behind the others." She wrote down the boy's name and room number, but it wasn't until the teacher was outside of the boy's room that she discovered it was located in the burn unit of the hospital. No one had prepared her to find a young boy horribly burned and in great pain. But she felt she couldn't just turn and walk out so she awkwardly stammered, "I'm the hospital teacher, and your teacher sent me to help you with nouns and adverbs!" The next morning the nurse on the burn unit asked her, "What did you do to that boy?" Before she could finish making apologies because she thought she had done something wrong, the nurse interrupted her and said, "You don't understand. We've been very worried about him, but ever since you've been here yesterday his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back, responding to treatment ... it's as though he's decided to live." The boy later explained that he had given up hope until he saw that teacher. It all changed when he came to a simple conclusion. With joyful tears, he expressed it this way: "They wouldn't send a teacher to work ~~withxxxxxx~~ on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?"

But that is exactly what God did. He stepped into a dying world to restore the peace that had been broken by the warfare of sin. He did exactly the opposite of what was expected. And so it is incumbent upon us who have received that peace, to be prepared to share it in the world where we live. We are to stand, with out belt on, our breastplate protecting us from the blows of Satan which could wound us severely; and we are to have the proper shoes on ready to move out for the Lord.

The victory is available for our lives. But it becomes a question of whether you want to win. Are you dressed for the battle with commitment? Are you seeking to live a holy life? Are your feet firmly rooted and grounded in God and the things of God? If not, now is the time to prepare. God is inviting us to get prepared now, today.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor January 31, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Meron Hewis and Jimmy Shearer
+ + + + + ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M. + + + + +

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 336 "O Worship the King"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, now that we have seen
and known the manifestation of your Son and our Lord, we
pray that it may become evident in our lives. Refute
the prejudice that makes us hate others; upset the
selfishness that blinds us to the debt we owe our
fellowman; disturb the complacency that keeps us from
your service; and cleanse us from all that would offend
you. We pray all this in the name of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 56 "God Will Take Care of You"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.
Prayer
Offering
Offertory "Jesus Loves Me" by the Youth Orchestra under
the direction of Rol Thompson
*Doxology - page 382
Anthem: "A Mighty River"
Scripture: Ephesians 6:16
Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Shield"
*Invitational Hymn No. 71 "Faith Is the Victory"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Henry in memory of Loved Ones.
Mrs. Zitt Thompson will greet our members and guests at
the door this morning.
Ushers for today are Marge Smiley, Deb Melton, Genny
Nohach and Lucille Tack.
Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 16 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sue Gamble.
Shirley Thompson and Marge Smiley will be visiting the
hospital this week.
Hospitalized: Mrs. Ellen Schildroth in BMH
Bill Thompson. in Allegheny Gen. in Pitts.
MONDAY - Benevolence Committee will meet at 7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY - Church Council meeting at 7:00
THURSDAY - 6:00 P.M. Youth Choir practice
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir practice
SATURDAY - 10:30 a.m. Orchestra practice
UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:
Feb. 8th - Activities Committee meeting at 6:30
9th - Sunday School teachers tureen at 6:00 P.M.
at Marge Smiley's home.
11th - VBS Preview workshop in Renoboth Hall 9:30 a.m.
Moody Bible Conference is open to any men of the church.
If you would be interested in going, please stop in the
office. Application to be in by the end of February.
Today is the last day to make nominations for Elders and
Deacons. Please list the name on the paper provided in
the back of the pews and drop in the offering plate.
Valentine Dinner is being held on February 13th, 6:30 at
So. Butler Firehall. It is not too late to turn in your
reservation. Dinner is \$8.50 each with a choice of
braised steak or stuffed chicken breast. See Bill &
Ione Pflugh or Marilyn Snyder. Join us for some fun.
February 18th is Youth Night at the Butler Area Laymen's
Dinner. The dinner will be held here at the church.
Price is \$4.00, tickets may be purchased from Jake
Hammon.
Congregational Dinner will be held on February 7th at
5:30 P.M. We urge each one of you to attend and support
the programs and functions of your church. This is
under the planning of the Lay, Life & Work Committee.
Please bring a tureen, table service, and a friend.
Beverage and dessert will be provided as well as the meat.
We look forward to seeing each of you there!
Remember to save your newspapers and bring them into the
church for the Youth.

Scripture: Ephesians 6:16
 (Plus ni skul student & refus rejectin notic.
 Now if that letr wer actuly writn, I wondr wat hain
 we ynr man spear redy 4clas on ept 18
 certnly sho inventiv mind & desir 2succeed
 Alex Pumas .r, writ=Nothin succeed lik success
 wth that statmen ly in fac lnce suces achiev furth
 successes folo
 This specil tru of Romn Empire
 Romn army was successful, mity, military machin at time
 wh had conqur any & all who stnd in ther path
 Nowher do read in NT but I mus hav admr Romn soldrs
 cum in2 cortac with
 Here wer men who disciplin evry way
 they had2 remain tiptoy fite conditn at all time
 Ther daily remiten consid of exercis/diet healthful
 foods & preparndes 2meet any conditin/situ encounter
 Nturally, I abl observ thez soldrs 1st hand since he
 chain 2ot least 1 of them at all time
 He abl note uniform & this wat writ 2oth Ch in 2oth
 about in this 6th chap
 He depic Defensiv Dres of Romn soldr as sumth Xnian
 soldr shud wear
 th dif 2 that Xnian defensiv dres 2B used 2fite th
 warfare agin 2atn & his forces
 We hav lk at Belt; Breastplate & Shoes. Now I writew:
 Vs 16a="bez word dont mean this nex pc armr mor import
 than any othr
 Thez word simply introduce final 4pcg armr
 Notic how I divid thez 6pc armr
 ea of 1st 3 concs w/ an "NB-read vs 14-15
 I hav identify thez 3pc, he redy 2mov 2las pcs 7 writ=
 Vs 16=perhap of all armr of Romn soldr this is 1 I may
 hav nevr seen, but had ask bout
 ther actual 2shields they use=1rnd shield lik giant
 frisby
 it use by soldr 2spry blows of enmy whil in turn
 try 2pet at his w/short sword hand 2 hand
 shield writ bout was 1st woodn shield 4ft & 2ft
 it covr outsid w/ either metal or lethr
 outer covr vry thik & purpos 2deflec arrow of enmy
 if metal was polish & shon in sun; if lethr treat
 w/oil 2exting any flam arrow shot at it
 Wen Romn army fot had specil strategy 4major battl
 1st line soldr who cary ther shield wud go front of
 all army
 Rhin wud 3 soldrs w/bows/arrows, & swords
 as army advanc soldrs in front wud plac shields side
 by side creat lng wal of protectin
 Archrs Rhin wud sho t arrows & army advanc inch/yr

wen got clos enur, hand-to-hand combat tak plac 2/
 soldrs w/ lng woodn shields wer very import
 wen got 2pt cud no advanc furthr, wud plant shields
 in rnd & army had wal of protectin until cud mov
 agin
 both sides wud coat arrows w/witch & ignit & shoot
 pitch hit clothing/shield & splattr & set fires
 Th I wat I talk bout wen say=vs 16C
 Jus lik Romn soldr if shield coat w/lethr & oil, fire
 wud bounce off harmlesly
 So agin, sed we shud2 prep 4any devid 2atn may use
 2covrour us
 Ther 1srsl prob tween 1st Greek text in sum versins
 2Jv no say= w/1 one & shud 2ouz 1 spk of 2atn
 2ouz 2atn is th 1 lead statk agin Arians & our shield
 need 2B such that we can w/stan onslaut
 But wat is it we use 2w/stan onslaut
 I says Th shield of faith & that faith is wh ovrcum
 all opositin; it faith wh stan regardles how insurmtbl
 odds may2; it faith that inspir peron 2keep on in spite
 all elses; it faith that may cal upon us 2stan alone
 in midst of doubts
 (Plus womn listn P's voice)
 Here exampl faith in midst sever doubt
 How many ur wud do sumth so foolish, so 2ster w/out
 mony & expec 2 ansr our faith?
 Now many in 1st plac wud admit 2hear 2 spk, tel us
 sumthin.
 How many ur wud hav wheel carts up 2countn & wait
 an hour 2ouz 2 sed so
 Put this wat faith aculy is=Faith ask us 2acpt wat
 we cannot 2 or undrstand
 u, this ilus is not exampl of stan agin wiles of 2w
 devil
 But it cud exampl of 2 made 2lk foolish in our enli
 lighn society
 & that exactly wat I set at in this scrip
 He says STAND & he went 2 stand or 2hold on evn wen
 things 2 not rite; evn wen circumstances & situatins
 2 not exactly wat U lik or want
 2stand firm, unmovin fr wat U Believ/or stan on
 In 1 Cor 15:58- say=(Read)
 B 2tedfast - STAND - Read vs 16
 Regardless circumstances whether all Ur frends desert U
 or evry 1 turn fr U,
 STAND. STAND. STAND.
 Js sed- Ic I am with you always even unto the end
 of the world

A hi skul senior wrot lettr 2ccleg he
wanted 2atend aftr receiv rejectin not-
ice fr them. We wrote:

Dear Admissions Officer,
I am in receipt of Ur rejectin notic of
my aplicatin. As much as I wud like 2
comdat U, I find I cannot accept it.
I hav alredy receivd 4rejectin notices
fr othr coleges & this numbr is, in fac
ovr my limit. Ther4, I mus rejec Ur
rejectin, & wil apear 4classes on Sept
18.

Vs 16A=Abuv all

(Ilus lady & Fds voice)

1 Cor 15:58

"Defensive Dress: The Shield"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:16

(Illustration of high school senior refusing rejection notice)

A high school senior wrote a letter to a college he wanted to attend, after he had received a rejection notice from it. He wrote:

"Dear Admissions Officer,

I am in receipt of your rejection of my application. As much as I would like to ~~accommodate~~ accommodate you, I find I cannot accept it. I have already received four rejection notices from other colleges, and this number is, in fact, over my limit. Therefore, I must reject your rejection, and will appear for classes on September 18."

Now if that letter was actually written, I wonder what happened when that young man appeared ready for classes on September 18. It certainly shows an inventive mind and the desire to succeed. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Alexander Dumas Sr. wrote, "Nothing succeeds like success." The truth of ~~xx~~ that statement lies in the fact that once success is achieved, further successes follow. This was especially true of the Roman Empire. The Roman Army was a successful mighty military machine at the time of Paul which had conquered any and all who stood in their path. No where in the New Testament do we read it, but Paul must have marveled, and perhaps secretly admired the Roman soldiers he came in contact with. Here were men who were disciplined in every respect. They had to remain in tip top fighting condition at all times. Their daily regimen consisted of exercise, healthful foods and a preparedness to meet any condition or situation they encountered. ~~Thixix~~

Naturally, Paul was able to observe these soldiers firsthand since he was constantly chained to at least one of them. He was able to note their uniforms and this is what he was writing to the church in Ephesus about in this sixth chapter of his letter. He depicts the Defensive Dress of the Roman soldier as something the Christian soldier should wear. The difference being that the Christian's Defensive Dress is to be used to fight the warfare ~~of~~ against Satan and his forces.

We have looked at the Belt, the Breastplate, and the Shoes. Now Paul writes, "Above all," as he begins this 16th verse. Those words do not mean that this next piece of armor is of more importance than any other. These words simply introduce the final three pieces of armor. Notice how Paul divides these six pieces of armor. Each of the first three are connected with an "And." Starting in the 14th verse he writes, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, AND having on the breastplate of righteousness; AND your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

Having identified these pieces of armor he is ready to move on to the last few pieces and so he writes, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, where-with ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Perhaps of all the armor of the Roman soldier, this is one which Paul may not have seen in evidence with his guards. There were actually two shields which the Roman soldiers used. One was a small round shield much like a giant

frisbee. It was used by the soldier to parry the blows of an enemy while he in turn tried to get at his opponent with a short sword in hand to hand combat.

But the shield Paul was writing about was a large wooden shield which was four-and-a-half feet long, by two-and-a-half feet wide. It was covered on the outside with either metal or leather. This outer covering was very thick. Its purpose was to deflect the arrows of the enemy. If it was a metal covered shield it was polished so it shone in the sun and could distract the enemy. If it was leather, it was treated with oil to extinguish any flaming arrows shot at it.

When the Roman army fought they had a special strategy for a major battle. A long line of soldiers who carried these shields would go in front of all of the army. Behind them would be the soldiers with bows and arrows, and swords. As the army advanced, the soldiers in front would place their shields side by side, creating a large wall of protection. The archers behind would fire their arrows. It was in this manner that the army would advance inch by inch. When they got close enough to the enemy the hand-to-hand combat would take place. The soldiers with the large wooden spears were very important. When they got to the point where they couldn't advance any further, the shields were planted firmly in the ground and the army had a semblance of protection until they could make whatever moves necessary to move forward again.

Both sides would coat their arrows with pitch, ignite the pitch and then shoot them at each other. When the arrows struck another soldier, or wood, the pitch would splatter causing little fires to start on the clothing, or whatever. This is what Paul was talking about when he said to take the shield of faith, "wherewith ye shall be able to quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked."

Just like the Roman soldier, if the shield is coated with metal, which fire cannot burn, or if it is covered with leather and then oiled, the fire will bounce off from it harmlessly. So again, Paul is saying that we should be prepared for any device Satan may use to overcome us.

There is one small problem between the English and the Greek texts which some versions such as the King James Version doesn't pickup on. The verse should read, "All the fiery darts of the wicked ONE." Paul is actually referring to Satan. He is the one leading the attack against Christians and our shields need to be such that we can withstand his onslaught.

What is it that we are to use to withstand Satan's onslaught? Paul tells us it is, "The shield of faith." That "Faith" Paul is talking of here is the faith that overcomes all opposition. It is faith that stands regardless how insurmountable the odds may be. It is faith that inspires a person to keep on in spite of all else. It is a faith that may call upon us to stand alone, in the midst of doubts,

(Illustration of faith of woman listening to "Her Father's voice")

A missionary, Lisa Groves in Brazil tells of an unusual situation that she knew firsthand. A widow with 4 children came to the point where she only had the equivalent of twenty-cents in her purse. If she used it to buy bread, the children would go without milk. And if she used it to buy milk the children would go without bread. So she didn't know what to do and she decided to pray. She prayed for two hours and finally God spoke to her and told her to go to this huge supermarket that had 124 checkout counters. He told her to buy all of the groceries she would need for 3 months and then to go to checkout counter number 7. She went to the super market and filled three shopping carts with groceries and then pushed them to checkout number 7. When she arrived there the cashier was going to lunch and she shutdown the cash register. The other cashiers waved her over to their counters, but she told them, "My Father told me to go through number 7."

That widow who heard God's voice, trusted Him, and waited at that checkout counter for one hour with three grocery carts full of groceries, and 20 cents in her purse. The cashier came back from lunch and ~~opened the~~ was astonished to see the woman still there. She opened the counter and began to check her out. As the cashier was coming to the last of the groceries to be rung up, ~~and~~ an announcement came over the loud speaker: "Good afternoon shoppers: Today is the seventh anniversary of our opening, and the person at checkout counter number seven gets all of her groceries ~~free today~~ today, free."

Here is an example of faith in the midst of severe doubts. How many of us would do something so foolish as to go to a store without money and expect God to answer our faith? How many of us in the first place would admit to hearing God speak to us and tell us something? How many of us would have wheeled those grocery carts up to the checkout counter and waited for an hour? But this is exactly what faith is all about. Faith asks us to accept what we cannot see, or understand. True, this illustration is not an example of standing against the wiles of Satan. But it is an example of being made to look foolish in our very enlightened society. And that is exactly what Paul was getting at in this Scripture. He says, "Stand." He meant to stand or to hold fast even when things are not right; even when circumstances and situations are not exactly what you like or want; to stand firm, unmoveable. It was at a later time that Paul writing to the church in Corinth wrote those words of faith and courage as recorded in the 15th chapter of his first letter. It is there in the 58th verse that we read, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Be stedfast. Stand: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

Regardless of the circumstances, whether all your friends desert you, or every one turns from you, "Stand: Stand: Stand. Jesus said, "Lo I am with you even unto the end of the world."

STAND.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 7, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Robin Kaiser and Ray Gamble
+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 306 "Lo! He Comes with Clouds
Descending"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) O God, you gave us a Light for
our lives, but too often we hide our light, which
leaves us many times in the dark. Our lives should
be a reflection of that Light, but instead we are
casting shadows of doubt. Keep us from those things
which tend to shake our faith. Help us to shine
forth wherever we are to a world that badly needs
The Light. Take from us all of our sin, cleanse us,
and make us whole, through Christ our Lord. Amen.
*Kyrle
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 439 "Sweet Hour of Prayer"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.
Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Infant Dedication
Anthem: "Come Down, Lord"
Scripture: Ephesians 6:17a
Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Helmet"
*Invitational Hymn No. 235 "Jesus Is Lord of All"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction

*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Thompson in memory of Loved Ones.
The beautiful arrangement on the piano has been given in
loving memory of Grace Riddle by her grandson.
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sheppeck will greet our members and friends
at the door this morning.
Ushers for today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Frank
Crawford and Jeff Snyder.
Attendance last Sunday was 155 with 18 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sue Davis.
Paul Campbell and Bill Pflugh will be visiting the
hospital this week.
*Hospitalized: Bill Thompson - Allegheny General
MONDAY - Activities Committee will meet at 6:30
TUESDAY - Sunday School Teachers will meet at Marge
Smiley's home for a tureen and meeting-6:00 P.M.
THURSDAY - VBS preview workshop in Rehoboth Hall 9:30 A.M.
Youth Choir practice at 6:00
Chancel Choir will practice at 7:00
*SATURDAY - Valentine Dinner at 6:00 P.M. at the South
Butler Firehall.
*Woody Bible Conference is open to all laymen of the church
who may be interested. Registrations and deposit must
be in by February 14th.
February 18th is Youth Night at the Butler Area Laymen's
Dinner. The dinner will be held here in Rehoboth Hall.
Tickets are available through Jake Harmon, and the
price is \$4.00. Dinner time is 6:30 P.M.
REMINDER FOR THE YOUTH: Youth Group will be held from
2 to 4 on Sunday afternoon.
*CONGREGATIONAL DINNER tonight!!! It is 5:30 P.M. Bring
a tureen and table service and come join us for a time
of fellowship, fun and of course a little business.
NEWSPAPERS - please continue to save them and bring them
into the church. The Youth will take care of the
recycling of them. Ask your friends and neighbors to
save them also. It is a continuous project for the
Youth, so help them out.
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as savior, to
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire.

"Defensive Dress: The Helmet"
 Scripture: Ephesians 6:17A
 P has intro 1 by 1 individ pcs armor soldr wor
 star w/belt=omit Xpian shud hav;nex-bresplate=cover
 w/itl parts;shoes=shudB sturdy;shield=ward off flam ar
 Now spk of covr 4hed=Helmet;Bouz mos w/itl part body is
 he
 (Thus man B introduc wrongly)
 contrary 2this,P introduc ea pc armor corectly & has
 now cum 2 a mos vital part body 2B protec=th hed
 Helmet mosly mad of metl,erly 1's wer lethr
 main purp was 2 protec hed,mosly fr swords thrusts
 Romans use wat cal-brodsword;it 3 to 4 ft lng & was
 held lik baseball bat w/2hans
 (Exempl Petr in gardn Jeth w/Js & cut off ear)
 wen soldr wear helmet,blows struk dwn not much use,so
 can C valu of helmet
 P say=vs 17A=many pco think P spk of B saved,acpt Xp,
 but not so
 P spk 2Blievr;no 1wud put on armor 2fite Satn who no
 Blievr
 If U fite Satn U R on G's side,U hav 2B;UR not in
 th army unles UR a Blievr
 Js sed=He that is not w/us is aginat us
 P is sharing that if UR a Blievr UR undr atak & in
 need of armor of G
 Satn duznt atak thos who R not Blievr,wat wudB th
 pt? They alrady his
 Fr wat P say here ther R sevrl issu we need deal with
 One Big issu of many Blievr is quest of B sbl los Sal
 Is it posibl 2los one's salvatin?
 w/this quest we deal with aspec of Etrnl Securtly
 Is persn who is once savd always savd?
 2undrstan this mus undrstan salvatin
 ther R 3 aspects 2salvatin
 1st is Past aspect=wen persn receiv Xp as Sav he recei
 4givnes of all his sins
 P write=ther is now ther4 no condemnatin 2thoz who R
 in Xp Js
 that means persns sins R blottd out
 2nd aspec is Present=present aspec giv th individ free
 dom fr th powr of sin
 we wil sin daily all our livs,evn aftr cum 2 Xp
 But we hav a Sav who wil 4giv & clens us daily
 Jn writ=He is faithfl & jus 2-4giv our sins & 2clense
 us fr all unritusnes
 our Sav no lv us 2our own devices,He 4gives & clenses
 continuously

3rd aspec is futur=ther is cum tim wen ther wils 2/
 no mr sin & Jn writ this in Rev=no mor deth or sin
 Salvatin had hapn-that justificatin;it is hapn-Sanctif
 it wil hapn-that glorificatin
 Past means bin acomplish;present mean it contun & U
 can no lose;& if garntee in futur UR absolutly secure
 S: if P not talk bout salvatin,wat he say?
 Mo. Bib scholr Bliev P spk Satan & 2edg sword
 this brodsword & Satn try ovcum Blievr w/doubt,discour
 He atak our seat of reasn,our heds & discourag lik=
 U giv lot tim/money 2 G's work,wat 4? Wat hav sho 4it?
 U get pas ovr on job,U get stuk w/lousy jobs,is it
 worth it?
 then doubts lik=How U kno UR Xpian? R U sur U savd?
 lk how U act,if Xpian U wudnt do. Why worry bout sin?
 A littl bad no hurt. Is it worth it 2liv ritus lif?
 We need kno evr Blievr hav thez discour/doubts &
 Satn hurl in quest 2thro us off trak fr fol G
 But if hav Helmet savv covr heds,nuthin fals can
 cum inn our heds
 P wrot Xpians in Gal=Do not B weary in wel doing
 Old quest aris=Do I hav to teach snothr SS class?
 Why cant I sleep in 1 Sun lik othr membs do?
 Do I hav 2prep snothr sermn? & on & on thez go & our
 only defens is 2B root & grnd in th Lord
 (Ilus girl shovel coal w/littl shovel=I wil if work lng
 & UC it isnt how lng work,but how comit we R in th wor
 Jerry Falwell sez=th measur of a man is wat it takes
 2discourag him
 Wat duz it tak 2discourag U & turn U fr G?
 Wat R th doubts Ur if mak U want 2chuk it all?
 (Ilus girl in ss & yoke of G=put arms rnd our neks)
 in idst daily battl we face G is indeed ther putting
 His arms rnd our neks & luv us in spit of ourselvs
 We hav th victry asur,ther no doubt bout that
 But as labr.strugl/fite th daily battl,we need 2star
 in strngth ours only thru Xp
 Do U hav UR armor on?
 is UR hed protec fr thrus Satns swrod?
 Claim that victry thru Xp 2day,His invitatin is=
 Cum un2 Me all ye that labr & R hvy laden,& I wil giv
 U rest
 tak Him in2 Ur lif,& liv evn in midst daily warfar U
 face

(Ilus man introduced wrongly)

Salvatin: Eternl Securty

Past - aspect

Pr ent - aspect

Future - aspect

(Ilus girl & coal pile in London)

I will, sir, if I work long enuf

Jerry Falweal:

Th measur of a man, is wat it takes to
discourage him

(Ilus Yoke of God-it G put arms rnd our
necks)

"Defensive Dress: The Helmet"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:17A

Paul has introduced ~~each piece of armor one by one~~ one by one, the individual pieces of armor the Roman soldier wore. He started with the Belt and pointed out that it was the commitment the Christian should have. Next, was the Breastplate which covered the vital parts of the believer. Then he talked of the shoes which needed to be strong and sturdy. And then he spoke of the shield to ward off the flaming arrows shot at the believer. So it is that Paul now speaks of the covering for the head. The most vital part of the body is the head.

(Illustration of man being introduced incorrectly)

At a denominational convention ~~xxxxxx~~ the keynote speaker was introduced as a businessman who had made 25,000 dollars in potatoes in Maine. He arose and said, "That is only partially correct. It was not in Maine; it was in Texas. It was not in potatoes; it was in oil. It was not twenty five-thousand dollars; it was two hundred-and fifty-thousand dollars. I didn't make it; I lost it. And it wasn't me; it was my brother."

The Apostle Paul has correctly introduced each piece of the Roman soldier's armor thus far and has now come to ~~the~~ one of the most important pieces and that is the armor that protects the head. The helmet was made mostly of metal, although at one stage they were made of leather. But the main purpose of the helmet was to protect the head from being injured, particularly with blows from the swords of the enemy. Not only the Romans, but all of the fighting forces of that time used what was known as a broadsword. This was a sword which was from three to four feet long. It was wielded much like a baseball bat, being held with two hands. A good example of how that sword was used is given in the account of the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was there you may recall that Peter took a sword and cut off a servant's ear. Most people think that Peter just whacked down at the man and cut the ear off. But not so! Peter swung that sword sideways, the man ducked, and Peter caught the ear.

When a soldier was wearing a helmet, striking downward was of not much use. Thus it can be seen what the value of the helmet was. So it is that Paul having elaborated on the Belt, the Breastplate, the Shoes, and the Shield, now tells the believer that the next piece of armor needed was, "The helmet of salvation."

Many people who read this think that Paul is talking about a person getting saved, or accepting Christ. But this isn't so. ~~xxxxxx~~ Paul is speaking to believers. No one would be putting on the armor to fight Satan who wasn't a believer. You're not in the army unless you are a believer. If you're fighting Satan you are on God's side, you have to be. Jesus said, "He that is not with us is against us." The issues of salvation had been spoken of by Paul and he is sharing that if you are a believer you are

under attack and in need of the armor of God. Satan doesn't attack those who are not believers. What would be the point? They are already his. From what Paul is saying here there ~~ix~~ are several issues we need to deal with. One very large issue of many believers is the question of being able to lose salvation. Is it possible to lose one's salvation? With this question we are dealing with the aspect of eternal security. Is a person who is once saved, always saved? To understand this, we must understand salvation. There are three aspects to salvation. The first one is the past aspect. When a person receives Christ as his Savior, he receives the forgiveness of all of his sins. Paul writes, "There is therefore, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

That means the person's sins are blotted out.

The second aspect of salvation is the present aspect. The present aspect gives the individual freedom from the power of sin. We will sin daily all of our lives even after we have come to Christ. But we have a Savior who forgives us and cleanses us daily. 1 John 1:9 tells us, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Our Savior doesn't just leave us to our own devices. He forgives and cleanses us continuously.

Then there is the future aspect of salvation. There is coming a time when there will be no more sin. John writes in the book of Revelation that a day is coming when there will be no more death, no more sin. And we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. Salvation has happened - that's justification; it is happening - that's sanctification; and it will happen--that's glorification. The past means it has been accomplished. If it is present it is continuing and you can't lose it. And if it is guaranteed in the future you are absolutely secure.

So if Paul is not talking about ~~salvation~~ getting salvation, just what is he saying? Most Biblical scholars tell us that Paul is alluding to the sword that Satan is seeking to use on us and the word Paul uses here is for that ~~of~~ the broadsword. This ~~word~~ had two edges to it and Satan tries with those two edges to overcome every believer. Those edges are discouragement and doubt.

Satan attacks us by striking at our heads, the seat of our reasoning. His ~~attack~~ of discouragement might be something like: "You are giving a lot of yourself both in time and money to God's work, and what for? What do you have to show for it? You get passed over at your job, somebody less qualified gets the good jobs and you get stuck with the lousy ones. Is it worth it all?"

And then he attacks with doubts like: "How do you know you're a Christian? Are you sure that you're saved? Look at the things you still do and if you were a Christian you wouldn't sin anymore. Why worry about things like sin?"

Just do your own thing. You can be as good a Christian as anybody else, a little sin never hurt anyone. Besides, is it worth it trying to live a righteous life?"

But we need to know that every believer has these same ~~xxxxxxxx~~ discouragements and doubts. They are hurled at us by Satan in his quest to throw us off the track from following God. But if we have our heads covered with the helmet of salvation, nothing false can come into our heads. Paul wrote to the Christians in the church in Galatia, "Do not be weary in well-doing." Our labor is not in vain. All of us grow tired and weary. The old questions arise, "Do I have to continue teaching that Sunday School class? Why can't I take a Sunday and sleep in like so many other members do? Do I have to ~~write~~ prepare another sermon? On and on those doubts come at us and our only defense is to be rooted and grounded in the Lord.

(Illustration of little girl and coal pile in London)

A story is told about a little girl many years ago who lived in London. A coal truck came down the street and dumped a load of coal on the sidewalk in front of her house. She went to the cellar and came out the door with a little shovel. She went to the coal pile and picked up as much coal as the shovel could carry and took it into the cellar. She kept doing this all the while to the amusement of the next door neighbor. After she had carried four or five shovelfuls into the cellar, the man said, "Little girl, you'll never get all that coal in the cellar." She replied, "I will, Sir, if I work long enough."

And you see, it isn't how long we work, but how committed we are to the work. Jerry Falwell says that the measure of ~~xxxx~~ a man is what it takes to discourage him. What does it take to discourage you and pull you away from God? What are the doubts that Satan raises in your life that make you want to chuck it all?

(Illustration of little girl in Sunday School explaining the "Yoke of God")

In Sunday School a teacher read to her class the words of Jesus, "My yoke is easy." Then she asked, "Who can tell me what a yoke is?"

A boy answered, "A yoke is something they put on the necks of animals."

The teacher answered, "That's right. Now who can tell me what is the yoke God puts on us?"

A little girl answered, "It is God putting His arms around our necks."

In the midst of the daily battle each of us face, God is indeed there, putting His arms around our necks, loving us in spite of ourselves. We have the victory assured. There is no doubt about that. But as we labor and struggle and fight the daily battle we need to stand in the strength that is ours only through Christ. Do you have your armor on? Is your head protected from the thrusts of Satan's sword? Claim that victory through Christ today. His invitation is always, "Come to Me ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Take Him into your life and live even in the midst of the daily warfare you face.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 14, 1968
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Robin Kaiser and Ray Gamble

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 21 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, we confess before
you that our lives are not what they should be. We
do undesired sin, and we permit temptations to over-
come us. But we know there is forgiveness with you
when we do confess. So as we humbly seek forgive-
ness, we ask for new strength to lead a more Godly
life, for we pray in the name of our Master, and
our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Children's Moment with Bob
Hymn No. 443 "I Need Thee Every Hour"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.
Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Anthem: "You're Pretty Lucky, Mr. Churchman"
Scripture: Ephesians 6:17B
Sermon: "Defensive Dress: The Sword"
*Invitational Hymn No. 617 "Onward, Christian Soldiers"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude
*Congregation Standing

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mrs.
Marge Smiley in memory of Loved Ones.
Mrs. Betty Tressler will greet our members and guests at the
door this morning.
Fishers for today are: Jeanne Snyder, Jane Weichey, Judy
Shearer and Mid Diefenderfer.

Attendance last Sunday was 104 with 18 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Bonnie Gannon.
Herb Shearer and Ben Vensel will be visiting the hospital
this week.

> Hospitalized: Bill Thompson in Allegheny General and
Irene Forcht and George MacKinney in BMH.

SUNDAY - 7:00 P.M. Youth Group

> WEDNESDAY - 7:30 P.M. Asn Wednesday Service with Altar
Communion.

- Immediately following the service the Chancel
Choir will practice.

THURSDAY - Laymen's Dinner in Rehoboth Hall
No Youth Choir practice this week.

Today will be the last day to turn in your registration for
attending the Moody Bible Conference.

> Bible Study will resume again on Sunday evening at 7:00 P.M.
We hope to see the class again.

We are looking for a few more instruments to be added to
our orchestra. If you play an instrument please come on
Saturday mornings at 10:30 to join us.

Daily Bread booklets are on the table in the Narth-
ex. Please takethem and use them.

The 1967 Church Yearbooks are in the Narthex also.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire.

"Defensive Dress: The Sword"
 Scripture: Ephesians 6:17
 (Illustration yng man, termnl cancr, wif 4kids, suicide)
 This situ actul hapn & ansr pastr gav, wasnt sur how 2
 advis him
 Pastr fr/librl ch, but unfortunately, many attend Bibl
 B'ev ch's no kno wat 2say 2anyl fac probs lik this
 (I s littl boy & giv J's buk bak 2 him)
 Is that wat any of us hav 2say bout Bibl?
 Is it jus dus collectr aroun our hous?
 In yr 62AD 4mën lef Rome bnd 4provinc of Asia & ea
 cary on his persn, persnl lettr 2B delivr at destinat:
 Epaphroditus - bnd 4 Philippi
 Epaphras - bnd 4 Collosse
 Onesimus - bnd 4 Collosse & lettr 4mastr-Philemon
 Tychicus - bnd 4 Ephesus 2 delivr lettr 2ch ther
 Ea lettr cary by thes 4mën gav valubl instructs 2thoz
 who wud receiv & read them
 Lettr wh/Tychicus was 2delivr cary valubl info in th
 lettr part wh/stat=aph 6:10-17 - Read
 writr this info also writr othr 3lettrs as wel
 His nam P & he imprison in Romn jail, litrlly chain
 2his gard
 P saw clos rng-Defensiv Dres of captrs & thot of that
 dres as contain neces armr ***xth Blievr in Ch shud
 posses
 So he nam thoz pcs armr 1 by 1
 hav gon thru that list, we now cum 2las & pc
 In 2nd part vs 17 P say-Tak sword of Sp wh/is W of G
 th 1pc Romn soldrs uniform P & all prisnrs held great
 respec 4 was Sword
 This was not pc made unirom lk nice, dressy
 sted, was mos necesary pc & ment lif/deth
 as resul, soldrs knu how 2use & prisnrs knu & respe
 Sword P talk bout is short 2edg sword cary by evr Romn
 it both offensiv & defensiv weapn, & wen drawn, soldr
 knu wat 2do w/it
 In describ sam thing P talk bout here, authr buk Heb
 say=Heb 4:12 - READ
 P say in simplr term that wen G sword Romn soldr
 think of H Sp & how H Sp lead all Blievr in2 truth
 * that truth is Bibl wh/is weapn lik sword=2edg
 P knu knu valu read Scrip-evr day chain 2strngr & knu
 lonlines of despondncy Bcuz seprat fr lov 1's
 (Ilus old womn & help deriv fr/Scrip 4nervus tensin)
 How many peo hav U talk 2 who say how nervus R & cant
 get ovr it? I've herd it & so hav U
 But how many wud lk at read G's Word as cure?
 But it worth a try isnt it?

P also knu G's word wud help sp/as well 2/
 (Ilus man thro out Gutenberg Bibl)
 unlik this man, P knu valu of Bibl
 he knu G direc thoz who read it in ther daily livs
 th Bibl is aliv & cumz aliv *** 4 th/Blievr Bcuz G
 wil spk fr/its pages by His H Sp
 Let'n wat sum1 wrot bout G's Word:
 (I s of The Bible)
 Is th sword, th/Word of G th/main part Ur armr?
 Do U hav th/armr on?
 R U prep 2do batl w/th evil forces wh/suron us?
 R U a soldr of Xp?
 Do U kno Him as th/Lord & Savior of Ur lif?
 How many of U wil tak Him as th/One & only One who
 can lead us in2 & thru th/battl of life & victry?
 U may want 2respon 2aim 2day, & I urg U 2do so, by cum
 4ward & comit Ur lif 2Him
 Perhaps U may want 2recomit Ur lif
 I invit U 2respon as He leads
 Soldiers!
 Put Ur armr on!
 Onward Xpian Soldrs! Let us go 4th in2 Battl 4 Him

(Supos yng man-wif, 4kids-termnl cancr
contac U & ask bout suicide? wat say/tel?

(I s boy giv Bibl bak 2 God)

yr 62 AD & 4men bnd 4 Asia province

Epaphroditus - Philippi

Epaphras - Collosse

Onesimus - Collosse - Philemon

Tychicus - Ephesus

Eph 6:10-17

Hep 4:12

(Ilus old womn nervus tensin & Bibl)

(Ilus man thro out Gutenberg Bibl)

(Ilus The Bible)

Invitatin: 2tak Xp as One/only One 2lead
thru battl lif & on 2 victry

Soldiers! Put Ur armr on!

Onward Xpain Soldiers!

Let us go 4th in2 battl 4 Him!

"Defensive Dress: The Sword"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:17B

Suppose you were approached by a young man who told you a heartbreaking story and asked for your advice. The young man has terminal cancer and has been informed that with treatments he might live for two years. But he knew that the treatments, the hospitalization and related expenses would reduce him to poverty. But if he were to die right now, his wife and four children would have a house with a small mortgage on it, and about \$30,000 worth of investments and savings.

What would you advise him if he asked you about suicide? Where would you tell him to turn for help? Where would you turn for help for him? Would you tell him that the answers are to be found in God's Word? Would you tell him to read in the 20th chapter of Exodus and there find the commandment "Thou shalt not kill?" Would you tell him that in Genesis it tells us that we are made in God's image and that means God loved us enough to impart something of "Himself into each of us? Would you tell him that the body is the temple of God and is not ours to destroy? Or would you simply shrug your shoulders and say, "I can't help you, I don't know what to say?"

This situation actually happened and the answer he received from his pastor was that he wasn't sure just how to advise him. That pastor was from a liberal church, but unfortunately, many who attend Bible believing churches don't know what to say to anyone who is facing problems such as these.

(Illustration of little boy and "God's Book")

A little boy noticed a large black book on the top shelf of the bookshelves in the living room of his house. He asked his mother what that book was. She took it down from the shelf to show it to him and he saw that it was covered with dust. As she wiped it off embarrassedly, she said to him, "This is the Bible. It's God's Book." He thought about that for a moment and then said, "Well, Mom, if that's God's Book, why don't we give it back to Him? Nobody around here uses it anyway."

Is that what any of us have to say about the Bible? Is it just a dust collector around our house?

In the year 62 A.D., four men left Rome bound for the province of Asia and each was carrying on his person, a personal letter to be delivered at the end of his destination.

One was a man named Epaphroditus and he was bound for Philippi.
One was a man named Apaphras and he was bound for Collosae.
One was a man named Onesimus and he was bound for Collosse and his letter was to his master Philemon.
The fourth man was named Tychicus and he was bound for Ephesus to deliver his letter to the people in the Christian Church there.

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kprnkrkxofxtknximprntanrkxlttkrtxnhihtmxTynhiimsxmnsxxsnxyingxsakktstttxixnthnx  
laktwrxwarlkxofxiikxr(rmadr)chhhhsinnhx6xf0m7y
```

Each of the letters carried by these four men gave valuable instructions to those who would receive them and read them. But the letter which Tychicus was to deliver carried the valuable information ~~xx~~ in the latter part of it that stated, (read Ephesians 6:10-17).

The writer of this information was also the writer of the other three letters as well. His name was Paul and he was imprisoned in a Roman jail, literally chained to a Roman guard.

Paul saw at close range the "Defensive Dress" of his captors and he thought of that dress as containing the necessary "armor" the believer in the church should possess. So he named those pieces of "armor" one by one. Having gone through that list we now come to the last piece. In the second part of the 17th verse Paul tells the believer to take, "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

The one piece of ~~armor~~ the Roman soldiers uniform that Paul and all prisoners held a great respect was the sword. This was not a piece of ~~armor~~ fancy equipment which made the military uniform look nice. Instead, it was a necessary piece of every soldier's equipment that meant life or death. As a result the soldier's knew how to use it and prisoners respected that weapon. The sword Paul is talking about here is the short two edged sword carried by every Roman soldier. It was both an offensive and a defensive weapon and when drawn, the soldier knew how to use it.

The author of Hebrews tells us in the 4th chapter the 12th verse, "For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

This is what Paul was saying, only in more simpler terms. Paul saw the sword of his Roman guards and immediately thought of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit which leads the believer into all truth. But it is the Holy Spirit that directs the believer to seek his help from God's Word. And Paul knew the importance of reading Scripture. He knew that it was of help physically. Chained as he was each and every day to a complete stranger, Paul knew the loneliness and despondency which came into his life by being separated from those he loved.

(Illustration of old woman and help derived for nervous tension)

A minister tells of visiting a home in Florida where he saw an old Bible dated 1877. Upon examining it he discovered that it had belonged to an old woman who was a devout believer. On a slip of paper she told how in 1883 she had been plagued by extreme nervous tensions and how she thought she would lose her sanity. She went to a noted Boston physician. After a lengthy consultation he wrote the following prescription: "My good woman, you need to read your Bible more." And across the note were penciled these words, "It worked."

How many people have you talked to who tell you how nervous they are and they can't get over it? I've heard it many times. How many of them are seeking to overcome it by reading God's Word more? It's worth a try isn't it? But Paul not only knew God's Word to be of benefit physically, he rejoiced in it spiritually as well.

(Illustration of man throwing out Gutenberg Bible)

A man who had no use for anything old told a friend of his how he had thrown out an old Bible which had been in his attic collecting dust. He described it and said that somebody named Guten - something had printed it. His friend who knew the value of old books told him that he had thrown away a very valuable antique. He said, "You idiot, do you know what you threw out? It was one of the first books ever printed. Recently one was

one was sold at auction for over a million dollars." But the other man was unmoved. He said, "This one wasn't worth anything. It wouldn't have brought a dime. Some fellow named Martin Luther had scribbled notes all through it."

Paul knew the value of God's Word. He knew that the Holy Spirit directs those who read it in their daily lives. The Bible is alive and it comes alive for the believer because God will speak from its pages by His Holy Spirit. Listen what someone wrote about God's Word:

(Illustration of "The Bible")

This book contains: the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilot's compass, the pilgrin's staff, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here heaven is open, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is the grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, health to the soul, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you here in this life, will be opened at the judgement, and is established forever.

It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its contents.

Is the "sword," the Word of God the main part of your Christian armor? Do you have your armor on? Are you prepared to do battle with the evil forces which surround us?

Are you a soldier of Christ? Do you know Him as the Lord and Savior of your life? How many of you will take Him as the One, the Only One who can lead us into and through the battle of life? You may want to respond to Him today by coming forward and ~~accepting Him into your~~ committing your life to him. Or perhaps you may want to re-commit your life. I invite you to respond as He leads. Put your armor on. Onward Christian soldiers, let us go forth into battle, for Him.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 17, 1968
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
*Processional Hymn No. 279 "Savior, Thy Dying Love"
*Ascription
*Call to Communion and Confession (Communion Folder)
*Prayer of Confession (Communion Folder)
*Assurance of Pardon
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Communion Hymn No. 122 "In the Hour of Trial"
*Service of Holy Communion (Page 2 of Communion Folder)
The Lord's Supper (Usher will direct you to the altar rail)
Distribution of the Bread
Distribution of the Cup
*Prayer of Thanksgiving
Anthem: "He Touched Me" by the Womens Choir
Scripture: Romans 5: 12-21
Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: First"
*Hymn No. 256 "The Old Rugged Cross"
*Benediction
*Postlude

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mrs. Sandy Sheppeck will greet the congregation and our
guests at the door this morning.

Those serving Communion tonight will also be serving as
Ushers.

Nursery will be provided this evening by Tracey Smiley.

Hospitalized: Irene Forcht, George MacKinney, and
Vivian Holan in BMH., also Ed Beck.

Announcements:

Thursday evening the Butler Area Laymen's Association will
be holding its dinner in Rehoboth Hall at 6:30 P.M.
Choir will practice immediately following the service
tonight. No Youth Choir practice this week.

> The Ushers will be distributing the Love Loaves to you
on the way to your seats after receiving communion.
They will be returned on Easter Sunday. This year the
funds collected in the Love Loaves will be used in a
Children's Christian Hospital in Kampuchea.

The Pastor will be on TV in the upcoming week. Beginning
February 21 at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday 23rd at 9:30 A.M. and
Thursday the 25th at 1:00 P.M.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 22 - Property Committee meeting will be at 7:00
VBS meeting at 7:00 P.M. This is for any
one interested in helping with VBS this
year. Teachers, helpers, or craft teachers.

> The New Daily Bread booklets are in the Narthex.
1987 Yearbook is also in the Narthex for those who have not
received one.

> It is time to order your Easter Egg. The Activities Comm-
ittee is now taking orders. Ordering deadline is
February 24th, so order now to assure you of a good
choice of eggs.

> We will be taking New Members into the congregation. If
you or someone you know may be interested in joining our
family, please let the office know. This will be done
on Palm Sunday, March 27th.

A new Christian Movie, "CAUGHT" will soon be coming to the
Butler Area. Date at this time is uncertain, but the
tickets are now available through the office at a price
of \$3.00 each. The movie will be shown in April.

Bob and the orchestra would like to see a few more members
join them in their service to their church. If you would
like to join us, please come in on Saturday mornings at
10:30.

Before we know it, it will be time for the fish dinners
that the Activities Committee is hosting. Please keep
this in mind and be willing to help them out. Dates are
March 9th and 29th. This is for lunch and dinner.

Shadowy Portents: "first"

27

Scripture: Romans 5:12-21
(Ilus James Russell Lowell-las vs hymn-lnce 2evr man)
G has always stud lking upon His creatin & work out
His plan 4its redemptin
Way bak Bgin tim, in ancent period, G form na of dus &
; Bcam liv soul & it fr shadowy pas we can C glimps
at G's plan was
If lk closely OT characters C portins G's futur plans
reveal in them & wil lk sum thez characters & C how G
reveal self in them
Shadowy=thez men shadows w/in shadowy plan of G
Portents=or signs of that wh/is 2cum
As in all plan mus satrt at Bgin=deal w/what is FIRST!
In this portin Scrip, P writ wat prob mos profound port-
tin of Scrip & 2expoun wud tak mor tim than hav
Will deal w/only sevr l vss this pasag
vs 12=P Bgin here & man refr 2is Adam
G's creatin perf, & includ Adam, but he chos disobey G
& Bcuz this, sin entr in2 worl
P relat Bcuz this sin brot deth 2all men, & all men
in worl sin Bcuz of Adam
vs 13=k add, & he say Bcuz no law in worl, men no chrg
w/sin, but it no mean man no sin
sin was ther, but no chrg 2mans acct but sumth els &
vs 14=2undrstan need go bak 2Gen 2:15-17-READ
vs 17=G giv coman 2Adam & expec coman 23 obey
but Adam no obey & he wuz responsbl 4deth entr worl
fr/tim Adam 2-Mos ther wuz no law, no comands say-donot
But ther phy deth wh/sepratin fr/G
evn tho ea persn fr Adam-Mos sin, ther sin no impute
or chrg 2ther acct
~~notwith~~ they stil dy, wh/is & was penitty 4sin
P explr by say=vs 14a=& he simply say they no brk com
lik Adam did
& then add=vs 14B=P say Adam, Shadowy Portent of Js
Shadowy, unseen persn was Th One who wud ovrcum that
wh/dun & need 2undrstan this ONE who was 2cum was not
a cp 2Adam, but insted a contrast
Word figur=Tuos in Gr & mean-type, pattern, resemblanc
1 Cor 15:21-22=READ & say in rom 5:18-19
(Ilus man say-My sin is ful of life)
Ea individ cum in2 worl cud say this Bcuz ea sin is
ful of lif of Adam who 1st brot sin in2 worl
But thru Js Xp sin bin blot out & in fac, Js has takn
th lif out of sin
thru Him we R clens & made whol & can hav that relat-
ship w/G wh/He desir of specil creatin fr/fndatin of
worl

(Ilus coal minr decoart 4 bravry by K of Eng)
& this is relatship can hav thru Xp
Being born in2 th sam liknes of Adam we R not a home
w/th King=almity God
But thoz receiv Xp R born in2 th palac & hav th
loval blud flo in ther veins
If U kno Xp as Ur L & Sav U R part of th Kingdm & th
old relatships hav ended
P sumup by say=vs 21
Thanks B 2-God who giveth us th victry thru our L &
Sav Js Xp. Amen

James Rusel Lowel-las vs hymn-Once 2evry
man & natin

Tho th caus of evil prospr,yet tis truth
alon is strong;

Tho her portin B th scaffold & upon th
thron B wrong;

Not that scaffold sways th futur,& Bhind
... dim unknown,

Standeth G w/in th shadow,keeping watch
abuv His own.

vs 12

vs 13

vs 14A

Gen 2:15-17

vs 14B=TUPOS-typ,patrn,resemblanc
(Ilus-MY SIN IS FUL OF LIFE)

1 Cor 15:21-22 & Rom 5:18-19

(Ilus maner decorat 4bravry by K of Eng)

"I cudn't wait 2get out of th palac & bak
2my litl cotag in Whithavn. But ther was
a yng man Bsid th King who was perfectly
at hom in th palac & wud hav nevr bin
comfrtbl in my cotag. U C he was the Pr
of Wales,th King's son,& he was born 2 th
palac

Thoz receiv Xp R born in2 palac & royl
blud flo thru veins-U R part of Kingdm

vs 21

"Shadowy Portents: First"

Scripture: Romans 5:12-21

James Russell Lowell in his hymn, "Once To Every Man And Nation," penned the words in the last verse:

Though the cause of evil prosper, yet tis truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold and upon the throne be wrong;
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above His own.

God has always stood looking upon His creation and working out His plan for its redemption. Way back in the very beginning of time, in that ancient period ~~when God was creating and forming the universe~~ of creation, God formed man of the dust of the ground and man became a living soul. It is ~~from~~ from that "shadowy" past that we can see glimpses of what God's plan was. If we look closely at many of the main characters of the Old Testament, we can see portions of God's future plans revealed in them. During this Lenten season we are going to look at a few of these men and see how God was revealing Himself in the distant future through them. I have entitled this series, "Shadowy Portents," because these men were shadows within the shadowy plan of God. And they were "Portents" or a sign of that which was to come. As in all plans we must start at the beginning. So where else to start, but to deal with that which is "First."

In our portion of Scripture for this evening, Paul ~~ix~~ writes what is probably the most profound piece of theology in all of Scripture. To expound upon this Scripture portion would consume more time than we presently have. Thus, we will deal with just one or two verses from this block of Scripture passage.

Paul begins this section by saying, (read verse 12). The man he is referring to of course, is Adam. God's creation was perfect and that included Adam. But Adam chose to disobey God and because of this sin entered the world.

~~In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and God created the firmament. And God said, Let the waters under the firmament be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear: and God called the dry land, Earth, and the gathering together of the waters, Seas. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle of the earth, and every creeping creature that creepeth upon the earth. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowls of the air, and over the beasts of the earth, and over every creeping creature that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them: and God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowls of the air, and over every creeping creature that creepeth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb that bringeth forth seed upon the earth, and every tree which beareth fruit, I have given it you: but the flesh of the beast, and the flesh of man, that shall not be for food, but shall be for meat, as the flesh of the beast. And God said, Behold, I have given you the land, and the rivers, and the sea, and every creature that creepeth upon the earth, I have given you: but the flesh of the beast, and the flesh of man, that shall not be for food, but shall be for meat, as the flesh of the beast. And God said, Behold, I have given you the land, and the rivers, and the sea, and every creature that creepeth upon the earth, I have given you: but the flesh of the beast, and the flesh of man, that shall not be for food, but shall be for meat, as the flesh of the beast.~~

Paul relates that because of this sin, it brought death to all men, and that all men in the world sin because of Adam. So Paul then goes on to add, (read verse 13). He is saying that because there was no law in the world, sin was not charged to man's account, but that didn't mean that there wasn't sin. Sin was there, but it was not being charged to man's account, but something else was and we find that in the next verse. Paul states: "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression."

To understand that, we need to go back to the account in Genesis and see what transpired there. In Genesis chapter 2, verses 15 through 17 we read, (read these). In the 17th verse God gives a command to Adam and expects that com-

mand to be obeyed. But Adam does not obey it and as a result he is responsible for introducing death into the world. But from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, there was no law, no commandments that said "Do not." But there was physical death which is separation from God. Even though each person from the times of Adam to the days of Moses sinned, their sin was not imputed, or placed to their account. But nevertheless, they still died which is and was the penalty for sin. Paul explains it by saying, that they "Had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression." He is simply saying that they did not break a commandment like Adam did. And then he adds, "Who is a figure of Him that was to come." Paul is saying that Adam was the "Shadowy Portent," of Jesus.

The shadowy, unseen person was the One who could overcome that which was done. We need to understand that this One who was to come was not a comparison to Adam, but instead was a contrast. The word "Figure" which Paul uses in this 14th verse is from the Greek word "TUPOS" which ^{first} means, "a type, pattern, or resemblance." Paul explains this further in his letter to the Corinthians in the 15th chapter, Verses 21 & 22, (read these). This is exactly what he is also saying in the 18th & 19th verses of this Scripture in Romans 5, (read these verses.)

(Illustration of man coming forward at invitation & "my sin is full of life")

At the close of a worship service a man came forward to the altar rail.

As he knelt there the tears were flowing down his cheeks and he grasped the hand of the minister and said with deep emotion, "My sin is full of life."

He meant to say, "My life is full of sin," but instead said the other.

But what he was actually saying was what every person can say.

Each individual who comes into this world could say, "My sin is full of life!" Each sin is full of the life of Adam who first brought sin into the world. But through Jesus Christ, sin has been blotted out and in fact, Jesus has taken the life out of sin. Through Him we are cleansed and made whole. We can have that relationship with God which He desired of His special creation from the foundation of the world.

(Illustration of coal miner decorated for bravery)

In England a ~~king~~ very simple hard working coal miner was summoned to Buckingham Palace to be decorated by the King of England for bravery.

He was a big man, perhaps much like the "Big John" of the popular song of a few years back. This large miner used his considerable size and bulk to hold up the collapsing roof of the mine while his fellow-workers were able to escape by crawling between his legs. As far as he was concerned he hadn't done anything which anyone else in the same situation wouldn't have done, so he was embarrassed to go to the palace and be decorated. He said, "I couldn't wait to get out of the palace and back to my little cottage at Whitehaven. But there was a young man beside the king who was perfectly at home in the palace and would have never been comfortable in my cottage. You see, he was the Prince of Wales, the king's son, and he was born to the palace."

And this is the relationship we have through Christ. Being born into the same likeness of Adam we are not at home with The King, Almighty God.

But those who receive Christ, ~~now~~ are born into the palace and have the royal blood flowing in their veins. If you know Christ as your Lord and Savior you are a part of the Kingdom and the old relations has been ended. Paul sums this up by saying, (read verse 21). Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 21, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Jimmy Shearer and Mike Gamble

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 244 "Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, in this season of self-discipline, when we are giving thought to our discipleship, make us aware that being a disciple means to follow Jesus Christ as He seeks to be a servant of all. Thus we would remember: all our sins that keep us apart from you; all of the things we have omitted to do in our lives; all of the chances we have missed to help others and to seek them for your kingdom. For all of these things as well as others that may separate us from your love, we ask forgiveness in His name. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 246 "Man of Sorrows, What a Name!"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with you

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Thy Will Be Done"

Scripture: Genesis 6: 8-22

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Life Preserver"

*Invitational Hymn No. 95 "At the Cross"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude)

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by

Mrs. Catherine Pflugh in memory of Roy Pflugh.

Mr. & Mrs. George Pflugh will greet the members and our guests at the door this morning.

Ushering today will be done by the Youth.

Attendance last Sunday was 142 with 19 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Anna May Snyder.

Bob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Vivian Bolam, Irene Forcht, George

Mackinney, Becky Shearer and Carl

Hollefreund Jr.

SUNDAY - Youth Group at 7:00 P.M.

Bible Study Group at 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY - Property Committee will meet at 7:00 P.M.

VBS pre-planning meeting will be held at 7:00

Anyone interested in helping with VBS in any way, please come to this meeting.

THURSDAY - Youth Choir practice at 6:00 P.M.

Chancel Choir practice at 7:00 P.M.

Love Leaves are available today for those of you who did not get them on Wednesday evening at the service.

They will be returned to the church on Easter Sunday.

The new Daily Bread booklet along with the 1987 Yearbook is in the Narthex for you to pick up.

Easter Eggs will again be made. The deadline for ordering is February 28th. The price is \$4.50 each in flavors

of Peanut Butter, Maple Nut, Cherry Nut, Fruit n' Nut,

Coconut and French Vanilla Meltaway. See one of the

Activities Committee or drop a note in the offering

plate.

New members will be taken into the church on Palm Sunday.

If you or someone you know would like to join, please

let the Pastor or the office know.

We are still looking for a few more instruments to add

to our orchestra. If you would like to join us, come

in on Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to

each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your

life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation

gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to

pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor

will assist you if you desire.

"Shadowy Portents: Life Preserver"
 Scripture: Genesis 6:8-22
 (Ilus perf wethr day/nite in time of Nosh,
 graduly peo sunk 2lowr lev1 & now at this tim wer evil
 pervrt 2exten stench reach nostrils of G
 G cudnt tak anymor
 Jer 1:5-7=Hoses wrot
 in mid this 1 man was dif; 1 man stud out fr rest
 vs 8=this man was Noah & why did Noah find gr G's site
 vs 9=this no mean N w/out sin & perf; Mos simply say
 as far N sbl, sot 2B jus/ritus & rais famly that way
 that wat ment=Perf in his genratin
 vs 11=12=Mos reit wicknes peo on erth
 vs 13=G cam directly in2 N's lif
 G then giv N directin 4bld of ark
 need 2B remin all this totl nu 2 N & thez peo
 it nevr rain 34 & N ask 2step out compl in faith
 Heb 11:7=tel us this; it stricly by faith N did as tol
 can U pictur amt abus/ridicul N & sons receiv as they
 labr 120 yrs erec lrg boat completly dry land?
 Not only that, but N had stok ark w/fud,provisin 4
 animls & his famly
 wisguys suroun N mus hav had field day
 but N work stedly & did so 4sevr1 reasns
 1st=N walk w/God=he no join forces w/evil crowd
 his motto no=ince evrl do it, why shudnt I
 N was G's man & nuth go 2chang that
 think of courag tuk 2act independntly of res peo
 rnd him?
 2nd=N's obed BcuZ involv contract w/God=vs 18
 purp this expl 2=N in detail & vs 20 giv instrues
 bout birds/animls & end w/word=2 Keep Them Alive
 I nu all thez provis wer 2-1st preserv famlys lif,
 & 2nd preserv livs species birds/animls
 So here hav 1st record cov in Sibl, but cov incumbant
 upon G only 2 fulfil it
 G prom wud prolong/sav lif N & Famly & of birds/animl
 & creaturs wh/wer on ark
 it not cov wh/N had 2prom certthings in ordr 2keep
 or put th cov in2 force
 so in this get glimps ancent pas of that wh/G wud
 accomplish in futur
 3 saw His creatin had Bcum corrup/evil=but in corrup/evi
 ther 1 man who stud out in contras 2all othrs
 Thus G no seek 2B completly vengful F & destroy all
 here then is Portent or 4shado that wh/He wud do mor
 completly & fully in futur
 oak in that shadowy pas wasnt hint that event was
 merely th 4runner of G's plan of salvatin

Here, N was=1st preserv 4remant peo/animls
 G's plan 4mank has alway bin He no conten 4mank 2B
 sep fr/Him
 & ult preserv of lif He acomplish thru Js Xp
 in 3rd chap Gospl Jn Js viv tel misin G's provisin
 vs 16=this familier vs tel wat G sot do thru Him
 vs 17=Js say He ult Lif Preservr
 & 1 mak op how G brot 4th remnant fr/N & family,
 we can C similarty tween lif/ministry Js
 Nturally, N canot 3 plac sem lev1 Js
 but 4 cp's sak can C Shadowy Portent ther
 But Js no jus spk lovly words conf, also tol how mank
 wud react 2anyth wh/G did 2bring salv 2 mank
 vss 18-20=men luv darknes mor than lite is a truth
 that prevlent in tim N & dwn thru histry
 had peo rnd N turn fr/wicknes th story of N wud hav
 end dif
 wen G was go2 destroy 3od/3om BcuZ ther evil wickne
 peo had chanc repen & turn fr/it, but they no did
 as result=only remnant sav
 it alwy bin this way, & alway wil3 so
 Only remnant of worlds pop who hav evr liv on this w
 erth wil3 in G's etrn1 kingdm & this cause men=3:19B
 But this is not BcuZ G duznt luv mank, it BcuZ man
 duznt acpt wat G has givn 2him
 & evn w/individ congs w/in Ch of Js Xp ther R thez
 who wil not B a part of that remnant in etrnty BcuZ
 thry R ch members 4reasns othr than hav acpt Js Xp
 as L & Sav
 ther R many outsid ch who wil not Bcum Xpians BcuZ
 of actins of thoz suposedly Xpians
 Ik at blak ey ch givn las yr BcuZ of sum
 (I' : 3mn on train & talk bout Xpianity)
 wher do U stan?
 It is matt of choic
 R U try 2stan w/one fut in ch & 1 in worl?
 U canot 3 tru folowr of Js if that wher U stan
 It can only B w/both feet in Ch or both feet in worl
 It cant 3 either or
 G gav mank th shadowy examps of wat He wud do thru
 Xp
 but mank has always had choic
 Wat is Ur choic this day?

Jn 3:16-Js ult Lif Preservr
 vs 17- G not content condem
 vss 18-20
 vs 19B=men luv darknes mor
 (Ilus 3men & Xpianity
 salv hang on wat Js did,
 not on wat othrs do)

"Shadowy Portents: Life Preserver"

Scripture: Genesis 6:8-22

Each day was a beautiful day filled with sunshine. The temperature was ideal. It was never too hot, but just right. Flowers blossomed and bloomed all year round without interruption. The nights were equally ideal with clear skies and the heaven filled with stars twinkling and glistening constantly. It was a time in which all was ideal with just a few exceptions, but the people of the time were less than ideal. Theirs had been perfection as well, but gradually they had sunk to lower levels and now at this time they were evil and perverted to the extent that their very lives raised a stench that reached the nostrils of God. And God couldn't take it anymore. Thus Moses wrote, (read Genesis 6:5-7).

But in the midst of this, there was one man that was different. One man ~~stood~~ stood out from the rest and God took notice of this man and Moses wrote of him, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of God." verse 8. Why did Noah of all men find grace in God's sight? The 9th verse relates, "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."

This doesn't mean that Noah was actually perfect and without sin. Moses is simply stating that as far as Noah was able, he sought to be just and righteous and he was raising his family this same way. That is simply what is meant by, "perfect in his generations."

Moses reiterates the wickedness of the people on the earth, (read verses 11-12). It is then that God came directly into Noah's life and we read, (read verse 13). God then gives Noah the instructions for the building of this ark. We need to be reminded that all of this was totally new to Noah and these people. It had never rained before and Noah was being asked to step out completely in faith to do what God desired of him. The author of the book of Hebrews tells us in the 11th chapter, verse 7, (read this). It was strictly by faith that Noah did as he was told. Can you picture the amount of abuse and ridicule Noah and his sons received as they labored for 120 years erecting this large boat on completely dry land? Not only that, but Noah had to ~~make~~ stock the ark with food and provisions for the animals and for his family. The wiseguys ~~amongst~~ surrounding Noah must have had a field day.

But Noah worked steadily at his task and he did so for several reasons. The first of course was that "Noah walked with God." He didn't join forces with the evil crowd. His motto wasn't that since everybody was doing it, so should he. Noah was God's man and nothing was going to change that. Think of the courage it took for him to act independently of the rest of the people around him.

The second reason for Noah's obedience was that he was involved in a contract with God. The 18th verse relates, "But with thee will I establish My covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons wives with thee."

The purpose of this had been explained to Noah in detail and in the 20th verse which gives the instructions about the birds and animals ends with the words, "To keep them alive." Noah knew that all of these provisions were to preserve first the lives of himself and his family. And second to preserve the lives of the species of birds and animals.

Here we have the first recorded covenant in the Bible. But this covenant was incumbent upon God only to fulfill it. God promised that He would prolong and save the life of Noah and his family and of the birds and animals and creatures which were on the ark. It was not a covenant in which Noah had to promise certain things in order to keep or put the covenant into force. So it is in this that we get a glimpse in this ancient past of that which God would accomplish sometime in the future.

God saw that His creation had become corrupt and evil. But in that evil and corruption there was one man who stood out in contrast to all the others. Thus God was not seeking to be a completely vengeful Father and destroy everything and everyone. Here then was the "Portent" or foreshadowing of that which He would do more completely and fully in the future. Back in that "Shadowy" past there wasn't a hint that event was merely the forerunner of God's plan of salvation. Here, Noah was the "Life Preserver" for a remnant of people and of animal life.

God's plan for mankind has always been that He was not content for mankind to be separated from Him. And the ultimate preserving of life He accomplished through Jesus Christ. It is in the 3rd chapter of John that Jesus vividly tells of His mission as God's provision for mankind. ~~xxxxxxxif this chapter tells distinctly what His God sought to do~~

In the very familiar 16th verse of this chapter we hear Jesus tell what God sought to do through Him, (Read this). And then He follows that up with the words, "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

Jesus is saying that He was the ultimate "Life Preserver." And if we make the comparison between how God brought forth a remnant from Noah and his family, we can see the similarity ~~xxxxxx~~ in the life and ministry of Jesus. Naturally, Noah cannot be placed on the same level as Jesus. But for comparison's sake we can see the "Shadowy Portent" there. But Jesus didn't just speak some lovely words of comfort, He also told how mankind would react to anything which God did to bring salvation to mankind. Reading on the 3rd chapter of John's Gospel Jesus said, (read verses 18-20). Men loved darkness more than light is a truth that was prevalent in the time of Noah and down through history. Had the people around Noah turned from their wickedness the story of Noah I'm sure would have ended differently. When God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their evil and wickedness,

the people had a chance to repent and turn from it, but they didn't. And as a result only a remnant was saved. It has always been this way, and unfortunately will always be this way. Only a remnant of the total world's population who will have ever lived on this earth will be in God's eternal kingdom, "because men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil," Jn 3:19B.

But that is not because God doesn't love mankind, it is because man does not accept what God has given to him. And even within individual congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ there are those who will not be a part of that remnant in eternity because they are church members for reasons other than they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. There are many outside of the church who will not become followers of Christ simply because of the actions of those who are supposedly "Christians." Look at the black eye the Christian Church has received last year and is getting today because of the actions of some within it.

(Illustration of three men on train talking about Christianity)

Three men were riding in a coach on a train sitting on seats that faced each other. As they began their journey together one of the men began talking to the man across from him. In the course of their conversation the man said that he was a Christian. Immediately, the other man seized this opportunity to tell why he was not a Christian and he related all of the gory details of many so called "Christians" who were corrupt and evil. All this time the other passenger seated beside the Christian upon whom this abuse was being heaped didn't enter into the conversation. The man seated across from them, desiring to include this man asked him about his religious convictions. The up to this point silent man, now broke his silence by saying, "I see you are quick to detect evil. You are quick to point out the things which have turned Christianity into the mess it is in today. Now I'm a Christian, but I'll not offer a word of defense against anything you have said because it is true. But I would like to challenge you to speak a word against Jesus Christ."

The other man was surprised and said, "Oh no, I couldn't say anything against Him. He was perfect."

The other man replied, "That's so. And you see, when I compared myself to Him I found I could never be perfect. I'm a guilty sinful man and I wasn't like him at all. And I've seen what so called "followers" of Him do which is evil and corrupt. But what they do cannot turn me away from Him. My salvation hangs on what He has done, and not on what others are doing."

Where do you stand? It is a matter of choice. Are you trying to stand with one foot in the church and the other in the world? You cannot be a true follower of Jesus if that is where you stand. It can only be both feet in the church or both feet in the world. It cannot be either or. God gave mankind the shadowy examples of what He would do through Christ. But mankind has always had the choice. What is your choice this day?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor February 28, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Mike Gamble and Jimmy Shearer

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude "Ave Verbum"

Singing of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

Processional Hymn No. 223 "I Stand Amazed"

Scripture

Exhortation

Confession (In Unison) Most merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against you and against our fellowmen. We have followed too closely the pathway that was easy, and we have done whatever we desired. We have failed to praise you with our words and deeds, and we have ignored the needs of others. Even though we have known your will for our lives, we have failed to follow it. Grant your mercy unto us, O Father, as we express our regret for that which we have done. Receive us again into your fold, as we would endeavor to go forth serving you more faithfully, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Kyrie

Assurance of Pardon

Greeting: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Sermon with Bob

Hymn No. 591 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "It Is No Secret" by the Youth Orchestra

Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "I Do Believe" by the Gaithers

Soloists: Shirley Link, Bonnie Gannon, Marie
Henry and Ginny Mangel

Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-3

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Promise"

*Invitational Hymn No. 114 "Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude "O Brightly Streaming Star"

***** *Congregation Standing *****

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Tracey Smiley in memory of her father.

Mrs. Genny Mohach will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Dick Mangel, George Pflugh, Dick Daily, and Don Kingsley.

Attendance last Sunday was 109 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sandy Sheppeck.

Rick Vinroe, Ken Draxinger, and Lloyd Link will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: George MacKinney, Becky Shearer, Irene Forch, and Carl Hollefreund Jr. in BMH. Mrs. Alma Rex is in St. Margaret's Hosp. in Pitts.

SUNDAY - Youth Group at 7 P.M.

Bible Study group at 7 P.M.

WEDNESDAY - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY - Begin to make Easter Eggs at 6:00 P.M.

Choir for youth at 6:00 and Adults at 7:00 P.M.

LOVE LOAVES - today will be the last day for you to pick up your Love Loaf if you have not already done so.

EASTER EGG orders are due in today. Please make sure you have put your order in to one of the Activities Committee.

New members will be taken into the church on Palm Sunday.

If you or someone you know may be interested please be sure to let the Pastor or office know.

Bob Weinstein participated as the Liturgist for the TV Tapings. He will appear on TV on March 6, 8, and 10th.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

"SHADOWY PORTENTS: PROMISE"

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 12:1-2
 (ILUS COLUMBUS & "BETTER MANAGEMENT AWARD")
 HER NAME WAS 75yr old man 4-HOM ON THIS TRU
 HIS NAME-AB & LISTEN 2VOIC NOT HERE BY OTHER MEMS FAMILY 2DO WAT VOIC
 TO HIM

IF STAR OUT-NOT KNO WHERE GO, & UPON ARIV DIDNT KNO WHERE WAS: & ONLY
 THING DID KNO WAS WHERE HE HAD BIN
 VERY SPINNY AMTH SILENC OF GENERATIONS, G SPEKS OUT AGIN
 HE CAL OUT 2THIS OBSCUR MAN & WF TOL=VS 1-READ
 Ibrah, or ABRAHAM WAS WIL 2ANSR THIS STRANG CAL & WF KNO HE DID,
 BCUZ HEAD VS 4 & 5-READ
 NOT ONLY CAL 2OBSCUR HERDSMAN UNTOU, BUT DEFIC MAXX MAN WIL 2ACCPY
 XXXXXIIM CAL AT EACH VALU
 N BUK HER. CHAF 11 WE TCI AB DID THIS BY FAITH
 THIS MENT AB HAD 2 ASAK ALL KNOWN 2HIM, 2GO IN2 UNKNO
 TH CAL 2 AB WAS NOT ONLY 2SETRAT SELF FR ALL FAMILIS, BUT G
 FROM - VS2 VS 2-READ
 NOW HERE PROMS G GAV 2AB & NOTIC THEY NO CONDITIONAL-G NO SAY-I WIL
 MAK U A GPT NATIN IF U DO SC & SO, OR, I WIL BLES THEE & MAK THEE
 BRT IF THOU WILT DO SUCH & SUCH
 THERE NO STRING ATACH
 AB SEEK 2DO & WAS B ASK 2ACPT STRICLY BY FAITH & BCUZ AB REACT
 IN FAITH, ALL G SEE: 2HIM CAM 2PASS
 ILUS PHERC -8YR OLD BOY & HIS FAITH IN XP)
 NOW MUCH FAITH DO U HAV? WUD U B WIL 2RISK ALL 4 G'S CAL UPON UR
 LIFS
 NOT 2MANY XTIANZ R WIL 2MAK THAT SACRIFIC BCUZ IT MUCH EASIER
 2SIT IN COMF CH ON SUN & GC HCM 2CCMP HOME & COMF LIVS AFTERWARD
 & LET TH WORK OF XP UP 2 OTHERS
 PUT NOT ME
 AB ISNT LIK THAT, HE NO MAK EXCUS & SAY ' LET SUM1 ELS DO IT
 HE NO MAK OP GIV REASNS WHY HE WASNT QUALIFIED, UNABL 2DO IT
 WAT WE READ BCUT AB IN BEGIN 4th VSTHIS SCRIP SHUD RING IN TH
 EARS OF EACH US LIK CHINESE GONG - READ THIS VERSE
 R U WIL 2LISTN 2 G'S VOIC & HEED TH CAL??

AFTER G RELAT 2AB THAT HE WIL MAK GRT NATIN OF HIM & MAK HIS NAME
 GRT G TEL HIM - VS #3A - READ
 HISTRY IS REPLET W/NATIN AFTR NATIN WH/ROS 2POWER & IN THER EN-
 THUSIAGM 2B NUMBR 1 SQT 2DESTROY G'S PEO TH JEWS & WER THEMSELVS
 DESTROYD
 BABYLON, ASSYRIA, EGYPT, MOAB, GREEK, ITALY, GERMANY
 G MADE THIS PROM & HE HAS NAVE RESCINDED IT
 G WILNOT PERMIT ANY1 INDIVIDLT OR AS A NATIN 2SEEK 2DESTROY THAT
 WH/IS HIS
 IT DUONT MEAN THAT G IS PLEAS W/WAT HIS PEO HAV DUN OR R DOING
 AS A NATIN
 G CERTAINLY ISNT PLEAS W/WAT JEWS HAV DUN SINCE THEY TURN FR/HIM
 AFTER THER EXILE

BUT HIS HAN IS STIL ON THERM SEEK 2BRING THEM IN2 TH/FOLD
 & ACORD 2 BIBLICAL PROPH 1DAY THAT WIL OCCUR
 BUT IN MEANTIM, G STIL LIVS THRM AS HIS PEO & HE DEMAN THAT WE
 LIV THER 2
 SO B CAREFUL WAT U DO OR SAY RUT G'S PEOPL

AFT. } PROMS 2MAK GRT NATIN OF JEWS THRU AB, & PROMS 2BLES ~~THESE~~
 THOZ WHO BLES JEWS, & CURS THOZ WHO CURS THEM HE IMPART 2AB 1 FINAL
 PROMIS=VS 38*READ
 THIS WAS MERELY REITERATION OF WAT G FROM ~~ABRAHAM~~ AS RECORD IN GEN 3:15
 HERE G MAK FROM 2SATN THAT HIS DAYS R NUMBERD
 G PROMS 2PUT STRIF OR WARFAIR TWEEN MAN & SATN, BUT MCR IMPORTNTLY
 IT TWEEN SEED OF WOMAN WH/IS MESSIAH, & TWEEN SEED OF SATN WH/IS
 SIN & DETH
 NOTIC IT DIZNT SAY SEEDS, PLURAL WH/IS WAT WOMN HAS BROT 4TH IN WORL
 SINCE TIM OF EVE
 IT SIMPLY SAY =SEED & THAT MEAN ONE & ONLY ONE
 IT IS THRU THAT ONE THAT ALL TH ERTH IS 2B BLES
 WE CAN C THIS IF GO BAK & TRAC GENFCLOGY OF MAN UP 2 THIS PT OF
 SCRIP

IN CHAF 11 VS 10 WE READ =READ THIS
 SHEM U MAY RECAL WAS 1 OF 3 SCNS OF NOAH
 G 1ST GREAT ADAM & THEN READ OF G SAV CREATIN THRU NOAH
 NOAH HAD 3SCNS & 1 OF THEM WAS THIS SHEM READ RUT
 & 1 OF DESCENDENTS OF SHEM NOAH FATHR OF TERAH & TERAH WAS F OF AB
 IT WAS G WHO SINGL OUT AB'S SON ISAAC 2 CALRY ON RACE
 & IT WAS ISAAC WHO CHOS JACOB HIS YNGR SON AS TH/PREFR ONE
 & IT FR/JACOB IS TRAC TH LINE OF JUDAH 2 TH/HOUSE OF DAVID
 & TH/HOUSE OF DAV END IN TH/MAN JS XP
 & IT FR/JS IT SWEEPS OUT IN2 TIM & COVERS TH/WHOL ERTH
 & 4THERMOR, FR/JS XP TH/CURS THAT G PLAC ON MANK IS ~~KN~~ NULIFY & TH
 ORI. RELATSHIP W/G WANT W/MAN IS RESTOR AGIN
 THAT RELATSHIP IS POSSBL ONLY THRU XP
 WAY, WAY, BAK IN SHADOWY ANCIENT PAS IN PFRSN OF HUMBL HERDSMAN
 NAM AB G HAD PLAN WH/BGAN 2UNFOLD FR/PROMIS & CULMINAT IN PFRSN
 OF JE XP

(ILUS OF LITTLE GIRL, BIRTHDAY PARTY, & 'MOMMY I GIV U ME')
 THAT, IN ESSENC IS PRECISLY WAT G DID
 HE CAM IN2 TH/WORL IN FULFILMENT OF PROMISE HE MADE 2 AB SEVRL
 THOUSAN YRS B4 & SED=I GIV U ME
 DO U KNO THAT GIFT?
 R U WIL 2 ANCP HIS CAL 2DAY & CUM & SERV HIM?
 I EXTERN INVITATIN 2ACPT HIS CAL 2DAY 4UR LIF
 WONT DANSR & TURN UR LIF OVR 2HIM 2DAY?

"Shadowy Portents: Promise"

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

(Illustration of award to Columbus for his accomplishment of "not knowing")

A corporate manager announced that a new award had been established to be given annually. It was to be given to the person who best embodied the true spirit of "Better Management." Then he announced that the first person to be so honored was to be Christopher Columbus posthumously.

The award read: "He started out not knowing where he was going; upon arriving, he didn't know where he was; and upon returning, he didn't know where he had been."

There was once a seventy-five year old man for whom most of this was true. His name was Abraham and he listened to a voice not heard by the other members of his family to do what that voice was telling him to do. "He started out, not knowing where he was going; upon arriving he didn't know where he was," and the only thing he did know, was where he had been. Very suddenly, after a silence of generations, God speaks out again. He calls out to this obscure man and we are told in the 1st verse of the 12th chapter of Genesis, "'Now the Lord had said unto Abram, 'Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee.'"

Abram, or Abraham was willing to answer this strange call and we know that he did because in the 4th and 5th verses of this same chapter we are told, "So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and they came to the land of Canaan; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came."

Not only is the call of this obscure herdsman unique, but it depicts a man willing to accept this call at face value. In the 11th chapter of Hebrews we are told that Abraham did this "by faith." This meant that Abraham had to forsake all that was known to him, to go into the unknown. The call to Abraham was not only to separate himself from all that was familiar, but God promised, "I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing," verse 2.

Now here are the promises that God gave to Abraham and notice they were not conditional. God didn't say to Abraham, "I will make of thee a great nation" if thou wilt do so and so. Nor did God say, "I will bless thee and make thy name great" if ~~you~~ thou wilt do such and such. There were no strings attached. Abraham was asked to accept all of this strictly by faith. And because Abraham reacted in faith, all that God said to him came to pass.

(Illustration of little 8 year-old boy and his faith in Christ)

One Sunday an 8-year-old boy was in church and heard the minister Pastor Harold Dye preach on Simon the Cyrene carrying the cross for Jesus as He was being led to be crucified on Calvary. Following the service, little Pedro said to the minister, "You asked in your sermon what we would have done if we were in the crowd when Jesus fell under the weight of the cross. I'm sure I would have been happy to carry it! The boy had recently accepted Christ although his parents were antagonistic to the Gospel. To test him, the minister said, "Yes, but if you had helped Jesus, the cruel Roman soldiers would probably beaten you with whips." Without hesitation, the boy answered, "I don't care! I love Him! I'd have done it just the same."

Two weeks later Pastor Dye stood at the door after the service. When Pedro came by he patted him affectionately on the shoulder. Shrinking back with a little cry, Pedro pleaded "Please don't do that. My back is very sore." Since the minister had barely touched him he was puzzled. He took the boy to a nearby cloak room and asked him to remove his shirt. Crisscrossing his back to his waist were huge red welts. "Who did that?" the preacher

Terah became the father of Abram, or Abraham. It was ~~Abraham~~ who singled out ~~his~~ son Isaac ~~xxxx~~
~~xxxxxxx~~ to carry on the race; and it was Isaac who chose Jacob his younger son as the pre-
~~xxx~~ferred one and from Jacob is traced the line of Judah to the House of David; and the House of
David ends in the man Jesus Christ and from Him it sweeps out into time and covers the whole
earth.

And furthermore, from Jesus Christ, the curse that God placed upon mankind is nullified and
the original relationship which God wanted with man is restored once again. That relation-
ship is only possible through Jesus Christ. Way, way back in the shadowy ancient past in
the person of a humble ~~xxxx~~ herdsman named Abram or Abraham, God had a plan which ~~xxxx~~ be-
gan to unfold from a promise and culminated in the person of Jesus Christ.

(Illustration of little girl and birthday party for her mother & "Mommy, I give you ME!")

The mother of a family was celebrating a birthday and the rest of the family was treating
her to a party. When the time for the presentation of the gifts arrived, she was instruct-
ed to sit in her favorite living room chair. One by one, the father and the two older
children came in from the kitchen bearing their gifts on a tray, solemnly presenting them
to her as royalty. The smallest girl really too little to have had much of a role in the
gift selection, had been left out of these joyous plans. But watching the process, she
rose to the occasion. For when the others thought the party was over, she appeared from
the kitchen bearing an empty tray. Approaching her mother she placed the tray on the
floor, stepped upon it herself, and with a childish wiggle of joy said, "Mommy, I give
you ~~xxx~~ ME!"

That, in essence is precisely what God did. He came into the world in fulfillment of the
PROMISE He made to Abraham several thousand years before and said, "I give you ME."

Do you know that gift? Are you willing to answer His call today to come and serve Him?

I extend the invitation to accept His call today for your life. Won't you answer and turn
your life over to Him?

asked angrily? "My mother," said Pedro. "She whipped me because I came to church!" That Mexican boy proved he was willing to stand up for the One in whom he had put his faith. He wasn't afraid of what anyone could do to him.

How much faith do you have? Would you be willing to risk all for God's call upon your life? Not too many Christians are willing to make that sacrifice. It's much easier to sit in a comfortable church for an hour on Sunday, and go home to our comfortable houses and comfortable lives afterward and let the work of Christ up to others, but "Not me."

Abraham wasn't like that. He didn't make excuses and say, "Let someone else do it," and make all sorts of excuses why he wasn't qualified, or unable to do it. ~~That's the whole point of the story. What we read about Abraham in the beginning of the 4th verse of this Scripture should ring in the ears of each of us like a Chinese gong. God tells us, "So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken to him." Are you willing to listen to God's voice and heed the call?~~

After God relates to Abraham that he will make a great nation of him, and make his name great, God tells him, "And I will bless them that curse thee, and curse him that curseth thee!" History is replete with nation after nation which rose to power, and in their enthusiasm to be number one sought to destroy God's people the Jews and themselves were destroyed. Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, Moab, Greece, Italy, and in our time Germany. God made this promise and He has never rescinded it. God will not permit anyone, individually, or as a nation to seek to destroy that which is His. It doesn't mean that God loves what His people do or have done individually or as a nation. God certainly ^{ISN'T} ~~isn't~~ pleased with what the Jews have done since they turned from Him as far back as the time of the exile. But His hand is still upon them seeking to bring them into the fold. And according to Biblical prophecy one day that will occur. But in the meantime, God still loves them as His people and He demands that we love them too. So be careful what you do or say about God's people.

After God promises to make a great nation of the Jews through Abraham, and He promises to bless those who ~~xxxxxxx~~ bless the Jews and curse those who curse them, He imparts to ~~the~~ Abraham one final promise and that is, "And in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

This was merely a reiteration of what God had promised as recorded in the 3rd chapter of Genesis. It is there in the 15th verse that God first makes the promise to Satan that his days will be numbered. (Read this verse). God promises to put strife, or warfare between man and Satan. But more importantly it is between the seed of Satan which is sin and death, and between the seed of the woman which is to be the Messiah. Notice it doesn't say "seeds" plural which is what womankind has brought forth in the world since the time of Eve. It is simply "SEED" and that means ONE and only ONE. It is through that One that all of the earth is to be blessed. We can see this if we go back and trace the genealogy of man up to this point in Scripture. Going back to the 10th verse of the 11th chapter we read, "These are the generations of Shem."

Shem you may recall was one of the three sons of ~~xxxxx~~ Noah. God first created Adam and then we read of God saving His creation through Noah. Noah had three sons and one of them was this Shem we read about. And one of the descendants of Shem became the father of Terah.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 6, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: John Penrod and Dave Brinker

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 274 "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) O thou who dost in utter faithful-
ness stand outside the closed doors of the hearts of men,
knocking again and again, give us the will to open our
lives to thee. Come and cleanse our in-most being and
make your home within our hearts, that we may love thee
even as thou hast loved us; through Jesus Christ, our
Lord. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 246 "Man of Sorrows," What a Name!

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with you

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "The Old Rugged Cross" Organ and Saxophone

Scripture: Hebrews 11: 17-19

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Seed"

*Invitational Hymn No. 263 "There Is A Fountain Filled
with Blood"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Congregation Standing

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Mangel in memory of "Uncle Jimmy."

Mrs. Mid Diefenderfer will greet our members and friends
at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Marty Henry, John Snow, Frank
Crawford, and Jeff Snyder.

Attendance last Sunday was 135 with 18 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by LuAnn Janicki & Megan Hew
Art Snyder and Howard Jalliet will be visiting the hospi-
tal this week.

> Hospitalized: Irene Forcht in BMH and Mrs. Alma Rex in
St. Margaret's in Pittsburgh.

SUNDAY - Junior Youth Group at 5:30 P.M.

Youth Group at 7 to 8:30 P.M.

> Bible Study at 7:00

TUESDAY - set up for the Fish Fry

WEDNESDAY - Fish Fry lunch and dinner. If you are baking
pies or cake please bring them in early.

THURSDAY - Youth choir at 6 Chancel choir at 7

UPCOMING DATES: VBS Workshop Seminar at St. John's Church
on Evans City Road at 7:30 P.M., March 15th.

> Daily Bread booklets are in the Narthex for your daily
Bible reading.

> Palm Sunday we will be taking new members into the church.

If you or someone you know would like to join, please
see that the information gets into the office.

Easter Eggs will be ready for you to pick up and deliver
on March 20th.

Easter lilly time. Please place your order now. The
price is \$5.45 each for plant with 3-4 blooms.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to
pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire.

"Shadowy Portent: Seed"

Scripture: Hebrews 11:17-19
 (Plus city slickers & "Mule Egg")
 Th/agg patriarch Ab mus hav fel lik this wen perceiv wat G want
 him 2do in sacrific son
 Gud hav sed/felt I want fol G fulv, but 2slay my son,I no want
 2r that far
 Bu. Authr Heb tel us-Heb 11:17-19
 writr relat that wh/record 2plac OT buk Genesis-chps 21 & 22
 Gen 22:1-2-here we G instructs of G 2-Ab concern sacrific wh/G ask
 Ab 2mak
 but in ltr wat transpir R4 all this,thes instructs mayel hav
 appear 2R complet contradictin 2 Ab
 4instance-read chap 21hout a prom ~~and~~ G made 2 Ab
 bakgr 2this pt was,G prom son 2 Ab/Sar& that son was suposly
 on scen in persn Isaac
 but nothr son on scen,bron 2 Sar maid Hagar wh/Sar conspir
 2bring in2 worl by mate husb Ab w/serv Hagar
 This son-Ish now pok fun ynz Isaac wh/provok Sar & deman Ab
 remov both Hagar & Ish fr/famly
 So we lern-Gen 21:12=in othr word,G tel Ab 2listn 2gri of wif &
 now we kno wif has Scrip grnds 2 "NAG"
 But Ab bin tol fr/Isac th/prom G made 2him wudB fulfil
 Isac was 28 start that seed of Ab wh/wud mak of him grt natin,
 & thru whom all worl wudB bles
 but now numbr yrs hav pas & ther seem 2R som discrepancy,at
 lease if we luk at this fr/complet humn stanpt
 But fortunatly Ab lk all this thru eyes of faith in his God
 Gen 22:1="G did tempt Ab" - in orig Heb read=& TH/ELOHIM,HE
 TRIED THIS ABRAHAM
 fr this note sevril thing-1st-w/def articl denot this=THE GOD
 But Elohim plurl & phras tak on COMPLETE GOD,or mor posibly it
 de 1arly recordg of Trinity
 tn pist =this supren B,this Almtiy G seeks 2do sumth in lif of
 faithful serv as dearb by words="He tried this Abraham"
 word tried is use in contex of sumth atempt,or an adventur,
 or 2try sumthin out on Ab
 it isnt a trik,nor is it ask Ab 2do sumth agin his wil
 G is plac R4 Ab th/chanc 2prov whthr G mos import thing lif
 Ab is ask 2take=thin only Son Isaac" & sac him 2-God
 author Heb writ it Ab's "only Brotten son"
 Altho Ab fathr Ish,it was Isaac who was son of prom fr/G
 in this respec writr Heb mak compar 2-G & Ab=G had only 1 Brotn
 Son & at this pt in lif so did Ab
 Yet,this 1 son G was deman B sac 2-Him & thus we can C in this
 Shadowy Portent wat G was go 2do much latr tim in histry
 vs 2-G direc Ab tak son & travl & so read=vs 3-9
 1st Ab travl 3days 2get 2destinatin & here is ~~similarity~~ similarity
 that Js was in th/grav 4-3days
 next we C Ab inform son G will provid lamb 4sac-& lnce agin G

But ther othr Shadowy Portent fnd this Scrip as wel
 Mt Moriah is wher city Jeru was bilt & it on 1 of thoz hills
 outsid of Jeru cal=Golgotha/Calvary that Js Son of G was offr
 as sac 4all mankind
 it Bliev plac wher Ab bilt altr & did evrth G ask him 2do con-
 cern this sac was same site on wh/Js crucifixin tuk plac
 I cant R certin this,but ssa assumptin sinc G duz things in
 this mannr
 Anthr pt concern age Isaac this tim-we dont kno exac age,but it
 Bliev by many Rib scholrs,Isac was grown man wen this tuk plac
 if anyones ges concern this,but bear in mind 1st of all=Isac
 cary wood aftr donky park at bottom of hill=lik Js cary cros
 then he quest absenc of lamb & wen eviden no lam & fathr mak
 all neces preps,Isac prob Bcam littl suspicious
 & wen Ab Rgn ty him up 2put on altr Isac knu he was th/lamb
 But notic,Isac was obed & ther no mentin refusal 2go long w/program
 at this pt
 Many Rib scholrs Bliev Isaac bout 33yrs age this tim & trus fath
 completly & agin here simlarty tween Isaac/Js this pt.
 But pt all this,othr than fac Ab had faith is that Ab lk 2-G 2do
 sumth wh/nevr hapn up 2this pt
 authr Heb sumup in 11:19=READ
 he say in sum way Ab mus hav Bliev if G actual deman lif of son
 in sac,G wud sumhow eithr bring bak fr/ded or tak Isaac 2hvn
 wher Ab wud C him wen he died
 ther mus hav bin Blief in a resurectin that Ab held
 authr Heb pt out Ab receiv son bak fr/jaws deth & this was lik a
 FIGURE wh/ment pictur of that wh/tuk plac in persn Js Xp
 at th/pt wher Ab was redy 2plung knif in2 son,G provid sub with
 ram caut in thicket
 this pictur of Js as sub 4all mankind
 Is was prom of th/seed & fr/him & thru him,at much latr tim
 ther wudB complet fulfilment by Js Xp
 G want man 2C this R4 He did it in histry
 (Plus Blievr in Russia & soldiers as fellow Blievr=Obedient)
 Ab had faith,but he was completly in obed 2 G also
 it takes mor than jus faith 2B a folowr of Js
 Obad deman we seek 2chanz our livs & liv as He asks
 How obed R B 2 th/Lord?
 Wil U tak up Ur cros & folo Him & 4mak all 2R His?
 That is wat He ask of ea of us & this is invitatin 2all who
 wud folo Him.
 Come,follow Me! Wil U?

(Illus city slickrs & Mule Egg)

Heb 11:17-18 & relat 2 Gen 21 & 22

vs 19 - Resurrection & Ab

Figure - picture

provid sub 4-Abe

G provid sub 4man - Js

G want man 2C wat wud do, B4 did it in hōstry

(Illus Blievr's in Russia & soldiers)

Vs 2- direc 2travl & read vss 3-9

Cps:

3 days travel

G wil provid lamb

Mt Moriah - Clavary/Golgotha in Jeru

Age of Isaac

Heb 11:19 & resurrection

Gen 22:1-2

bakground & seeming contradictin

Gen 21:12 - Scrip grnds 4wif 2nag

Gen 22:1 - Heb=TH AND THE ELOHIM, HE TRIED THIS AB

THE God- the only one

HIM = plural & Bcum Complete God - Trinity

Tempt/Tried=sumth atempt, an adventur, 2try sumthing

Thine only son - Heb say - only Bgottn son

Vs 2 direc 2travl & READ 3-9

Cps:

3days travel

G wil provid lamb

Mt. Moriah & Calvary/Golgotha in Herusalem

Age of Isaac

Heb 11:19 & resurrectin

"Shadowy Portents: Seed"

Scripture: Hebrews 11:17-19

(Illustration of city slickers and "Mule egg")

The aged patriarch Abraham must have felt somewhat like this when he perceived that God wanted him to sacrifice his son Isaac. The author of Hebrews tells us, "By faith Abraham when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'That in Isaac shall thy seed be called.'" Hebrews 11:17-18

The writer is relating that which is recorded in two places in the Old Testament book of Genesis. Moses records this information in the 21st and 22nd chapters. The 22nd chapter of Genesis begins by telling us, "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, 'Abraham:' and he said, 'Behold, here I am.' And He said, 'Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.'" verses 1-2.

Here we see the instructions of God to Abraham concerning this sacrifice which God is asking Abraham to make. But in light of what has transpired before all of this, these instructions may well have appeared to be a complete contradiction to Abraham. For instance, we read in ~~the 12th verse of the 12th chapter~~ the 21st chapter about a promise which God made to Abraham. The background up to this point was that God had promised a son to Abraham and Sarah and that son ~~had appeared on the scene in the~~ supposedly appeared on the scene in the person of Isaac. But there was another son on the scene, born to Sarah's maid Hagar, which Sarah had conspired to bring into the world by mating her husband Abraham with her servant Hagar. This son, Ishmael, now poked fun at young Isaac which provoked Sarah and she demanded that Abraham remove both Hagar and Ishmael from the family. So it is that we learn from the 12th verse that God speaks to Abraham, "And God said unto Abraham, 'Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.'"

In other words God is telling Abraham to listen to the griping of his wife and now we know that a wife has Scriptural grounds to "nag." But Abraham had been told that from Isaac the promise God had made to him would be fulfilled. Isaac was to be the start of that seed of Abraham which would make of him a great nation and through whom all the world would be blessed. But now a number of years have passed and there seems to be some discrepancy, at least if we look at this from the completely human standpoint.

But fortunately, Abraham looks at all of this through the eyes of one whose faith is in his God. In the 1st verse of the 22nd chapter we read that after the preceeding things had taken place, "God did tempt Abraham." In the original Hebrew, that portion of Scripture reads, "And The Elohim, He ~~did~~ tried this Abraham." From this we can note several things. First, the definite article is there and that denotes this is "THE" God. But the word Elohim is plural and the phrase then takes on The Complete God, or more possibly it denotes an early recording of the Trinity here. The gist of this is that this Supreme Being, this Almighty God seeks to do something in the life of this faithful servant as described by the words, "He tried this Abraham." The word "tried" is used in the context of something attempted, or an adventure, or to try something out on Abraham. It isn't a trick, nor is it asking

Abraham to do something against his will. God is placing before Abraham the chance to prove whether God is the most important person in his life.

Abraham is asked to take, "Thine only son Isaac," and sacrifice him to God. The author of Hebrews writes of this as Abraham's, "only begotten son." Now although Abraham was the father of Ishmael, it was Isaac who was the son of promise from God. In this respect, the writer of Hebrews is making a comparison to God and Abraham. God had only One Begotten Son and at this point in his life, so did Abraham. Yet, this one son, God was demanding be sacrificed to Him. Thus, we can see in this ancient time the "Shadowy Portent," of what God was going to do at a much later time. in history.

God directs Abraham to take this son to "The land of Moriah; and offer him for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." So we read, (read verses 3 through 9). We see first that Abraham traveled for three days to get to his destination. Here is the similarity that Jesus was in the grave for three days. Next we see that Abraham informs his son that God will provide the lamb for the offering. Once again we see the fulfillment of this in the person of Jesus Christ, whom John the Baptist called, "The Lamb of God."

But there are other "Shadowy Portents" found in this Scripture as well. Mt. Moriah is where the city of Jerusalem was built. It was on one of those hills outside of Jerusalem called Golgotha, or Calvary that Jesus the Son of God was offered as a sacrifice for all mankind. It is believed that the place where Abraham built the altar and did everything that God had asked him to do concerning this sacrifice was the same site on which the crucifixion of Jesus took place. We can't be certain of this, but it is a safe assumption since God does do things in this manner.

Another point concerns the age of Isaac at this time. We don't know his exact age, but it is believed by many biblical scholars that Isaac was a grown man when this took place. It is anyone's guess concerning this. But bear in mind that first of all Isaac carried the wood after the donkey was parked at the bottom of the hill. Then he questioned the absence of the lamb. When it became evident that there was no lamb and his father was making all of the necessary preparations, Isaac probably grew a little suspicious. And when Abraham began to tie him up to put him on the altar, Isaac knew full well that he was the lamb. But notice, Isaac was obedient and there is no mention of his refusal to go along with the program at this point. Many Biblical scholars believe that Isaac was about 33 years of age at this time and he trusted his father completely. Again, there is the similarity between Isaac and Jesus at this point.

But the point of all of this other than the fact that Abraham had faith, is that Abraham looked to God to do something which had never happened up to this time. The author of Hebrews sums it up in the 19th verse of the 11th chapter by stating, "Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." The author is saying that in some way, Abraham must have believed that if God actually was demanding the life of his son in a sacrifice, God would somehow either bring him back from the dead, or take Isaac to heaven where Abraham would see him when he died. There must have been a belief in a resurrection that Abraham held. The author of Hebrews points out that

Abraham received his son back from the jaws of death and this was "like a figure," which meant it was a picture of that which ~~was~~ took place in the person of Jesus Christ. At the point where Abraham was ready to plunge the knife into his son, God provided a substitute with the ram caught in the thicket. This was a picture of Jesus as the substitute for all mankind. Isaac was the promise of the seed and from him and through him, at a much later time there was the complete fulfillment by Jesus Christ. God wanted man to see this before He did it in history.

(Illustration of believers in Russia and Soldiers who were "fellow-believers")

A house church in a city in the Soviet Union received one copy of the Gospel of Luke, the only Scripture most of these Christians had ever seen. They tore it into small sections and distributed them among the body of believers. Their plan was to memorize the portion they had been given, then on the next ~~day~~ Lord's Day they would meet and redistribute the Scriptural sections.

On Sunday these believers arrived inconspicuously in small groups throughout the day so as to not arouse the suspicion of KGB informers. By dusk they were all safely inside, windows closed and doors shut. They began singing a hymn quietly but with deep emotion. Suddenly, the doors were forced open and in walked two soldiers with loaded automatic weapons, at the ready. One shouted, "All right -- everyone line up against the wall. If you wish to renounce your commitment to Jesus Christ leave now!"

Two or three left quickly, then another. After a few seconds, two more.

"This is your last chance. Either turn against your faith in Christ," he ordered, "or stay and suffer the consequences." Another left. Finally two more in embarrassed silence with their faces covered slipped out into the night. No one else moved. Parents with small children trembling beside them looked down reassuringly. They fully expected to be gunned down, or, at best, to be imprisoned.

After a few moments of complete silence, the other soldier closed the door, looked back at those with their hands up who were standing against the wall and said, "Keep your hands up -- but this time in praise to our Lord Jesus Christ, brothers and sisters. We, too, are ~~the~~ Christians. We were sent to another house church several weeks ago to arrest a group of believers --" The other soldier interrupted, " -- but, instead, we were converted! We have learned by experience, however, that unless people are willing to die for their faith, they cannot be fully trusted."

Abraham had faith, but he was completely obedient to God also. It takes more than just faith to be a follower of Jesus Christ. ~~What does your~~ Obedience demands that we seek to change our lives and live as He ~~demands~~ asks. How obedient are you to the Lord? Will you take up your cross and follow Him and forsake all to be His? That is what He asks of each of us, and this is His invitation to all who would follow Him! Come, follow Me.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 13, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: David Brinker and John Penrod

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude "Prelude" by Bach
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 268 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Most merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against you and against our fellowmen. We have followed too closely the pathway that was easy, and we have done whatever we desired. We have failed to praise you with our words and deeds, and we have ignored the needs of others. Even though we have known your will for our lives, we have failed to follow it. Grant your mercy unto us, O Father, as we express our regret for that which we have done. Receive us again into your fold, as we would endeavor to go forth serving you more faithfully, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Sermon with Bob

Hymn No. 254 "Near the Cross"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "Ten Thousand Angels"

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Do Lord / He's Got The Whole World" - Youth Choir

Scripture: Genesis 32: 24-28

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Ruler"

*Invitational Hymn No. 92 "The Solid Rock"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude "Fanfare for the King"

*Congregation Standing *****

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mrs. Marge Smiley in memory of Loved Ones.

Mr. Ray Isherwood will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Alta Kradel, Lois Stokes, Marilyn Snyder and Vivian Bolam.

Attendance last Sunday was 135 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Judy Bowser.

Dick Dally will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Mrs. Alma Rex in St. Margarets in Pitts.

TUESDAY - VBS Workshop Seminar at 7:30 P.M. at St. John's Reformed Church on Rt. 68 West. We urge those involved with VBS for this year to try to attend.

THURSDAY - Practice at 8:00 will begin for our special "Day of Song and Praise" to be held in June. We are looking for a few more voices to help with this. If you would like to join for this special day, come join us on Thursday evening.

FISH FRY held this past Wednesday was a big success. Now we look forward to the next one on Wednesday March 23. We need lots of help, cakes and pies for that day. Take a minute now and let Helen, Phyllis, or Dick know what you can do for us. We served \$50. and would like to do the same or more for the next one. We also would like to say thanks to those who helped us out in any way this week.

Palm Sunday we will take new members into the congregation. If you or someone you know would be interested please let the office know.

Easter Eggs will be ready for pick up on March 20th after the service.

EASTER LILY ordering time is here. If you would like to purchase one in memory of someone, please drop a note in the offering plate. Price is \$5.45 each.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

"Shadowy Portents: Ruler"

Scripture: Genesis 32:24-28

(Ilus 2womn talking bout roots, & 1 a complet snob)

(Ilus British lawyer want 2play self at exclusiv country club)

Snobby cumm all shapes/sizes & knows no boundrys, but porph Isa had a cur 4it

he wrot chap 51:1- READ

says,paraphras of corse,"Luk 20r actual roots,go 2 th/very de depths of wher U cam from & that sobr advic 4anyl lik 2put airt That kind of think wud hav bin sobr indeed 2man nam Jacob,son of Isaac,& grandson of Ab

it not so much fac Jac cam fr/impovrish bakgr,quit oposit

But it was fac fr/1st breth he tuk he was markd man

his mothr/fathr gav him nice name of=Deceiver

Thats wat Jac actualy ment - Deceiver,how wud U lik 2B givn a nam that imply U wud act in questinbl mannr?

Van U pictur how Jac felt wen mothr cal him 4suppr?

Deceiver,its tim 2cum hom now

Whethr his nam had bearing on his actins we dont kno,but we do

kno he liv up 2nam very wel

He trik his broth out of birthrite,trik his fathr 2Bliev he was

Esau,& this in turn trik Esau out of paternal blesinz was his

He escap 4his lif,& B4 return hom,trik his fathr-in-law

Wen near hom want 2mend fencees & sent word Esau he cum hom

jus in case Esau hold grudgz,Jac,ol deceivr he was,seprat self

fr/evrl includ wivs,childrn & spend nite alone

But Jac not alon & reads 24

proph Hosea identfy man as angl in 12th chap his proph

Jac bin wrestl w/gilt of lif 4quit few yrs & so wen litrlly

involv wrestl ma ch,held on 4dear lif

in this match prob fear 4very lif

vs 25=man wrestl w/cud not ovcum Jac & only way abl brk grip.

v 2dislocat his hip=vs 25-READ

vs 26why wud brk day hav anyth do w/outcum this match?

Ansr Jac actual wrestl w/G & cud not G-God & liv

Its tru this was humn manifestatin of G & this cal THEOPHANY

& this simply means a physicl manifestatin/appearanc of G

In OT thez appears ver actualy pre-incarnate apers of Js

G in 2nd persn of Trantv,appear humn form this tim & Jac wrestl

vs 26baJac want 2B bles

vs 27-28=he got mor than bles than anticipat

Nu nam Jac receiv was=VIS=RAW=ALE & ment=He wil rule as God

Here this man deceiv fathr,brothr,fathr-in-law,& had liv lif

of deceptin

& at long las,G brot 2pt wher had 2deal w/himself

in his encountr w/th Lord,he saw all his lif Rhin him,

he cam 2this phy strugl w/his lif a shambles

he knu wat he had bin,he mus hav felt care,concern,worry of

"Wher wil it all end?"

As Bran wrestl he thru self in? strugl so complet, Lord dislocat hip

whethr he then crippl 4lif we no kno,we nevr told

but do kno his lif completly turn rnd

he no longr th/old Jacob

He was th/New VIS=RAW=ALE=he who had powr w/G & w/men,who had

prv iled

He who wud now rul as G wh/his name imply

but 2C this is 2C only part of pictur

in this ancient ilus Jac only ~~Sakam~~ Shado of that wh/2cum

He sho pictur how man cud ovrcum sin & get rite w/G

But that pictur was unabl 24 fulv complet until man nam=Js cam

in? worl many yrs latr

Wen He was born was givn very simpl nam=Js wh/mean=G is Salvatin

But was not discovr until He dy that He not simply man,but was

G in th/flesh

All His erthly lif He strugl agin sin & at end of lif had pre-

vail

He had wrestl lik Jac & He had prevailed

This gav Him nam chang fr/simply Js of Naz,2-Js Xp

He was,& in, & always wil B Js th/Messiah,th/Delivrer of mankind

(Ilus Alexandr th/Grt & unruly soldier)

Thoz who Reum folowrs of Js Xp B givn th/nam Xpian

that was lnce a derogtory term & ment basicly=Littl Xp's

it use use as slur/putdwn of persn

2bear nam Xpian is 2infer a chang of nam

it means one who has wrestl w/lif,& agin sin,& has pprevail thru

Js Xp

How tru duz that nam ring in our lives?

Is it jus a nam or titl we assum?

Or duz it truly identfy who we R? & wat we R?

I t is jus a titl & means nuth,then we mus eithr chang our

conduct,or chang our name

Do U own or poses that nam in Ur lif?

I invit U ~~Spawkk~~ U 2 tak Him in Ur lif as Ur Lord & Seviar

Js stans at dor of Ur hart,knok 2gain entranc

wil U let Him in & receiv Him 2day?

"Shadowy Portents: Ruler"

Scripture: Genesis 32:24-28

(Illustration of two women talking, and one was a complete snob)

Two women were talking while sharing a table ~~at~~ during lunch at the Country Club. The one was a noted society person and the other was the wife of a noted Jewish doctor. The society matron remarked, "Did you know I can trace my ancestry back to the Mayflower?" The Jewish woman said, "Is that so?" "Yes," she purred, "I come from a long line of influential people in America. But how far can you trace your ancestry?" The Jewish woman answered, "Mine go back to that other boat." The society matron ~~was~~ puzzled by her answer asked, "What other boat was there beside the Mayflower?" And the Jewish lady answered, "The ark."

(Illustration of British lawyer wanting to play golf at exclusive Club)

A distinguished British lawyer who was an avid golfer had always desired to play at a rather exclusive 18 hole course outside of London. One day he was driving by and it was such a gorgeous day he decided he would stop in to see if he could play. Approaching the desk he asked the club secretary if it were possible he could go out on the course. The secretary asked, "Member?" To which he replied, "No sir." "Guest of a member?" "No, sir. ~~Then~~ The answer came back, "Sorry." As he started to leave he saw a distinguished and well known man seated in the lounge reading the London Times. He went over to him and said, "I beg your pardon Lord Boring, My name is Higinbottom of the law firm Higinbottom, Higinbottom and Schwartz. Would it be possible to play 18 holes of this beautiful course as your guest?" To which Lord Boring asked, "Church of England sir, as all my family is." "Education?" "Eton, and Oxford, Sir." "Sports?" "Rugby, and a bit of tennis, and on the 1950 rowing team." "Service?" "Brigadier in the Queens black guard." "Campaigns?" "Dunkirk, El Amein, and Normandy." "Decorations?" "Victoria Cross and Knight of the Garter." "Languages?" "French, German and a bit of Greek." Lord Boring considered this for a moment, then nodded to the club secretary, and said, "Nine holes."

Snobbery comes in all shapes and sizes and knows no boundaries. But the prophet Isaiah had a cure for it. He wrote in the 51st chapter of his prophecy in the 1st verse, "Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence you are digged."

He says, paraphrased of course, "Look to your actual roots. Go to the very depths of where you came from." That's sobering advice to anyone who likes to put on airs. That kind of thinking would have been sobering indeed to a man named Jacob, the son of Isaac, and the grandson of Abraham. It wasn't so much the fact that Jacob came from ~~such~~ an impoverished background, quite the opposite. But it was the very fact that from ~~him~~ the first breath that he took, he was a marked man. His mother and father gave him the nice name of "Deceiver," That's what Jacob actually meant. "Deceiver" how would you like to be given a name that implied you would act in a questionable manner? Can you picture how Jacob would have felt when his mother called him home for supper? "Deceiver, it's time to come home." Whether his name had a bearing on his actions we don't know. But we do know the he lived up to the name rather well. He tricked his brother out of his birthright, then he tricked him out of the paternal blessing which was supposed to be his. These actions caused him to flee for his life. Then he got homesick after he had tricked his father-in-law and decided to come back. When he neared home he ~~wasn't~~ wanted to mend his fences and so he sent word to Esau that he was coming home. And just in case Esau was still holding a grudge, Jacob, (old deceiver that he was), separated himself from everyone including his wives and children, and went to spend the night alone. But Jacob was not alone and we read in the 24th verse, "And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled ~~with him~~ a man with him until the breaking of the day."

The prophet Hosea identifies this man as an angel in the 12th chapter of his prophecy. Jacob had been wrestling with the guilt of his life for quite a few years and so when he was literally involved in a wrestling match he held on for dear life. In this wrestling match he probably feared for his very life. The 25th verse tells us that the ~~angel~~ man he was wrestling could not overcome Jacob and the only way he was able to break his grip was to dislocate his hip, (read verse 25). In the next verse we receive the answer as to who this man was, for we read, "And he said, let me go for the day breaketh." Now why would the breaking of day have any bearing on the outcome of this match? The answer is, that Jacob was literally wrestling with God and he could not see God and live. It's true this was a human manifestation of God and this is called "A Theophany." Which simply means a physical manifestation or appearance of God. In the Old Testament, these appearances were actually the "pre-Incarnate" appearances of Jesus. God, in the second person the Trinity, appeared in ~~human~~ human form at this time and Jacob wrestled with Him.

Jacob informed this man, (not knowing with whom he wrestled), that he would not release him until he received a blessing from Him. And Jacob did receive ~~as~~ much more of a blessing than he had anticipated and we read, (read verses 27 & 28). The new name which Jacob was given was YIS-RAW-ALE and it meant, "he will rule as God." Here was this man who had deceived his father, his brother, his father-in-law and had lived a life of deception. At long last he had been brought to the ~~point~~ point by God where he had to seriously deal with himself. In his encounter with the Lord, he saw all of his ~~life~~ life behind him. He came to this physical struggle with his life a shambles. He knew what he had been; he must have felt the care, and concern, and worry of "where will it all end?" And as he began to wrestle, he threw himself so completely into the struggle that the Lord dislocated his hip. Whether Jacob was now a cripple for life, we are never told. But we do know that his life was completely turned around. He was no longer the old Jacob. He was the new YIS-RAW-ALE, "He who had power with God and with men, who had prevailed," verse 28B. He ~~was~~ who would now rule as God, which his very name implied.

But to see only this is to see only a ~~part~~ part of the picture. In this ancient illustration, Jacob was only a "Shadow" of that which was to come. He showed the picture of how man could overcome sin and get right with God. But that picture was unable to be fully completed until a man named Jesus came into the world many years later. When He was born, He was given the very simple name of "Jesus" which means simply, "God is Salvation." But it was not discovered until He died that He was not simply a man, but was God in the flesh. All of His earthly life He struggled against sin, and at the end of His earthly life He had prevailed. He had wrestled, like Jacob, and He had prevailed. This gave Him the name change from simply being "Jesus of Nazareth," to "Jesus Christ." He was and is, and always will be, Jesus, the Messiah, the deliverer of mankind.

(Illustration of Alexander the Great and unruly soldier with name Alexander)

At one time in the army of Alexander the Great there was an unruly soldier. He was almost constantly in some kind of trouble. He fought with his fellow-soldiers, he refused to obey orders, and no amount of punishment seemed to change him. Finally, in desperation his commanding officer brought him to his commander-in-chief, Alexander the Great. The General was seated when the soldier was brought into his presence. He looked at the soldier and

said, "You are charged with being an extreme disciplinary problem for everyone concerned. I see that you have refused to work, you have refused to obey orders, and in general you are a poor excuse for a soldier. What do you have to say for yourself?" The soldier answered, "Nothing, Sir." The General asked, "What is your name soldier?" The soldier answered very quietly, "Alexander, Sir."

At this, Alexander the Great stood up and stepping in front of the soldier, asked him, "WHAT is your NAME, soldier?" The soldier stammered, "Alexander, Sir." And at this, the General said, "Soldier, either change your conduct, or change your name."

Those who become followers of Jesus Christ are given the name "Christian." That was once a derogatory term. ~~It means exactly what it says~~ It meant very basically, "Little Christs," and was used as a slur or a putdown of the person. To bear the name "Christian" is to infer a change of name. It means one who has wrestled with life and against sin, and has prevailed through Jesus Christ. How true does that name ring in our lives? Is it just a name or title we assume? Or does it truly identify what we are? If it is just a title and means nothing, then we must either change our conduct, or change our name.

Do you own or possess that name in your life? I invite you to take Him in your life as your Lord and Saviour. Jesus stand at the door of your heart knocking to gain entrance. Will you let Him in and receive Him today?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 20, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Mike Brinker and Toni Jo Patsy

+ + + + + ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 109 "Whiter Than Snow"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you entered Jerusalem to die for our sins. We confess we have not hailed you in the world with praise. From brief faith that fades, from enthusiasms that fizzle out, from hopes we parade but do not pursue, have mercy upon us. Forgive us God; and give us such trust in your power that, in every city, we may live for justice and tell of your lovingkindness; for the sake of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Kyrle

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 281 "Go To Dark Gethsemane"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Antem: "Jesu, Blessed Jesu"

Scripture: Genesis 50: 15-21

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Servitude"

*Invitational Hymn No. 84 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gannon in honor of their anniversary.

Wendy Norman and Kelly Mangel will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

The Youth will be serving as Ushers for today.

Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Judy Bowser.

Helen Riemer and Bonnie Gannon will be visiting the hospital this week.

*Hospitalized: Mrs. Alma Rex in St. Margaret's in Pitts.

*WEDNESDAY - Fish Fry will again be held at Lunch and for dinner. We need help as well as cakes and pies for dessert. Please see Helen, Phyllis or Dick, and volunteer now.

THURSDAY - Practice will begin for our special "Day of Song and Praise" to be held in June. We are looking for a few more voices to help us out. If you would like to join us for this special, come join us for practice at 8:15.

*Palm Sunday we will take new members into the church. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining, please let the office or Pastor know.

Easter Egg orders are ready for pick up in the kitchen today immediately following the service. Please see Helen, Phyllis or Dick.

Easter Lily order time is here. If you are interested in purchasing one, please drop a note in the offering plate. The price is \$5.45 each. Please be sure to include who the lily is in memory of. Order deadline is March 27th.

We need cool whip bowls for this week. Please bring them in as soon as you can. These are for the Easter Egg Hunt for the Easter Seal Society children on March 26th.

We need your reservations for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast.

If you plan to attend give us your name, the number of people attending. We also need rolls for the breakfast. If you can bring rolls, please let us know. Drop the note in the offering plate or see the office.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

"Shadow Potents: Servitude"
 Scripture: Genesis 40: 15-21
 (Thus plant bakfire--revenge)
 G tel us in Scrip=Reol, He sing will find U out
 (If has way of pruv this ovr & ovr agin
 (Thus murder caut by chance fingerprint selectin)
 A r r bros carv pilt wat had dun 2ther yner bros w/them 4-13yrs
 H. hate Reuz fav son of fathr
 so wen tend P's sheep & bros cam, seiz, strip of coat, & sel slav
 2covr crim, kil goat, sprinkl blud, tel fathr he kil wil beast
 But bros sold as slav in Egypt ros Ppower & 2nd only 2 king
 Reuz provision mad 2circumven ensue famin by this man, Egypt place
 wher fud cud purchas
 so was by needy bros man cum 2Egypt & wer confr by him
 man of cors was Josep & bros no know 4periud tim
 but aftr tearfl reunion, bros/Fathr cam 2liv Egypt
 Jac dy & ince agin nastv deed dun by bros azin Jos rear uglyhes
 "Wat if Jos turn on us now ded ded?" is quest on minds
 "Perhap he jusR nice whil dad aliv, so no disturb" they reasn
 vs 15-tel us all this
 vs 16-bros mak sur Jos not 2clos 2seiz & send mesngr
 they mak sur covr all bases & aftr all, bin taut by mastr at
 deceptins, Jacob=th/Deceivr nam ment
 He outmanuvr evrl
 vs 16R-17A-mesngr sav report & wat reactin Jos?
 did he seek hav are & throw in? prison or wors?
 vs 17R-Jos wept
 & evidently bros wer at plac cud C/kno wat tak plac & we read==
 vs 18- lk haw th/mity hav falln
 thpz who wer oldr/wiser & lk dwm nos at yngr bros, now regard
 him as abuv them
 vs 19R-20=Jos sho wisdm far 8yrs yrs
 knu wat had takn plac & insted of C self as victm of bros
 & l deeds, saw G had usecitu ~~xxxxx~~ 2rescu many peo fr/starv &
 deth
 Here viv pictur wat G wud do in futur tim/plac
 Jos bin cal most complet typ Xp in all Bibl
 (Thus Dr. Harold Wilmington & Pl simlartv tween Jos/Js
 Ther P both OT & NT Scrips 2bak thez up:wil suply if anvl want
 But all pts 2fac G was demonstrat in Jos wat wud do thru Js
 Evrth Js did was 2sho G's ~~xxx~~ luv 4 His ult creatin
 but w/ea thing Js did whthr pr/teach/heal it vu w/prejud eyes
 Thoz who shud hav kno who He was wer chief ofendrs sek deth
 they Bliev wat they wer do wen hav arest/tried/convic/execut
 was in ben intrests of peo
 Lik Jos, Js cud hav sed=vs 20=parphras

2/
 They thot they do world a favr by set rid pf pest,
 insted, merly folo G's plan w/out realiz it
 G ment all this 4 salvatin of mank
 (Thus littl girl reunat quarl parent in deth)
 This pictur wat Js did on cros
 Savior tuk han sinfl/hatefl humanty & plac in luv hand of G
 Is as tuk dy of littl girl 2bring parnts 2gethr, Js dy 2bring
 all mank bak 2 God
 Scrip conclud w/words Jos-vs 21A
 & this wat G sav 2all thoz who cum 2Him thru Js Xp
 He prom 2tak care us, nourish us, & littl l s as wel
 that His prom 2thoz who turn livs ovr 2Him
 But G alway giv man choic 4lif,
 we can eithr turn 2Him completly, or can seek 2go own way
 But soonr/latr ther cum tim, wen dawn of wat G dun 4mank thru
 Js Xp cum 2ea us
 At that pt can choos 2ignor it & continu 2strugl in own strng
 Or, can turn livs ovr 2th Lord & let Him tak chrg
 Ferhap He lif in turmoil; He may seem 2B all mix up
 may seem hav no wher 2turn
 But if He wil turn in directin of G & turn He lif ovr 2 Him,
 He wil find wat is missing

Similarities between Jpsekh & Jesus

Dr. Harold Wilmington:

1. Both wer Blovd of tver fathrs
2. Both regard selvs as shepherds
3. Both wer sent 2ther brthrn by ther fathrs
4. Both wer hatd by ther brthrn w/out caus
5. Both wer plotd agin by ther brthrn
6. Both wer sevrly temptd
7. Both wer takn to Egypt
8. Both wer strippd of ther robes
9. Both wer sold 4 th/pric of a slav
10. Both wer bnd
11. Both remaind silen & offrd no defens
12. Both wer falsly acussed
13. Both exper G's presenc thru evrthin
14. Both wer respec by ther jailrs
15. Both wer placd w/2prisnrs, 1 of wh/was latr
lost, & th/othr saved
16. Both wer arnd 30 wen ther minstry startd
17. Both wer highly exalt'd aftr ther suffrings
18. Both tuk Gentile brides
19. Both wer los 2ther bros 4awhile
20. Both 4gav & restord ther repentnt bros
21. Both wer visitd & honord by all erthly natins

"Shadowy Portents: Servitude"

Scripture: Genesis 50:15-21

(Illustration of plans backfiring - Revenge)

A man noted a classified ad in a newspaper which read, "Mercedes Benz automobile, mint condition. Low mileage, \$50.00." The man thought there must have been a misprint, but he decided to answer the ad. The seller was a middle-aged woman. She showed him the car and it was just like she said. It was several years old, low mileage ~~in~~ and in mint condition. The man said, "It is a beautiful car and I would like to buy it, but the price-\$50.00 - what's the catch?" The woman answered, "There is no catch. You see, my husband is on an extended business trip. I know that he is involved with another woman, but he doesn't know that I know. Three days ago I received a telegram from him. It read, 'sell the car and send the money.' So I am."

God tells us in Scripture, "Behold, your sins will find you out." Life has a way of proving this over and over again. (Illustration of fingerprint system & murderer).

Just this past week there is a good case in point which took place. A new computerized system ~~was being tested~~ of fingerprint identification was being tested. A local sheriff in a town was asked to place into this machine 25 fingerprints he had on file in his office. He only had 24 cards and was told to check ~~one~~ and if possible put in one more. So he took one card, from a stack of prints that had been in the office for sometime. These prints were fed into the machine and the one card he had picked at random, as the fingerprint ~~of~~ which had been taken at the scene of a ~~murder~~ murder committed several years ago. The man with that print was arrested to stand trial for murder.

A group of brothers carried the guilt of what they had done to their younger brother with them for at least 13 years. They had hated him because he was the favorite son of their father. So it was that when he came to where they were tending their father's sheep, they seized him, stripped him of his beautiful robe and sold him as a slave. To cover their crime they killed a goat and splashed the blood of the goat on the robe so they could prove to their father that his son was dead, ~~killed~~ supposedly killed by wild beasts.

But ~~this~~ this brother sold in Egypt as a slave, rose to power and was second only to the king of Egypt. Because of the provisions which were made to circumvent the ensuing famine, ~~Egypt~~ by this man, Egypt was the only place where food could be purchased. So it was that of necessity the brothers of this man had to come to Egypt and were confronted by him. The man of course was Joseph, and his brothers didn't know this for a period of time. But after a tearful reconciliation the brothers and their father Jacob came to live in Egypt. Then Jacob dies and once again the nasty deed which they perpetrated against their brother Joseph rears its ugly head. "What if Joseph now turns on us now that our father is dead?", is the question on their minds. "Perhaps he was just being nice to ~~us~~ so that he wouldn't further ~~disturb~~ disturb our aged father," they reasoned among themselves. ~~And so they~~ ~~came to Egypt with their father~~ So it is that we read in our Scripture, (read verse 15).

To make sure that they are not in close proximity to Joseph, making it possible for Joseph to seize them, we read, "And they sent a messenger unto Joseph," verse 16A. They were making sure that they covered all bases. And after all, they had been taught by a master at deception, their father Jacob. Jacob's name meant "deceiver" and they had been witness to how he had outmaneuvered everyone. So the messenger was sent, and we read, the messenger gave the report, "Thy father did command before he died, saying, 'So shall ye say unto Joseph, 'forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of ^{the} God of thy father.'" verses, 16B & 17A.

And what was the reaction of Joseph? Did he seek to have them arrested and thrown into prison, or worse? The end of the 17th verse merely states, "And Joseph wept when they spake unto him."

Evidently, the brothers were at a place where they could see and know what was taking place, for we read of them, "And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, 'Behold, we are thy servants,'" verse 18.

Look how the mighty have fallen! Those who were older, and wiser, and who looked down their noses at this younger brother, now regarded him as above them. But Joseph, showing a wisdom far beyond his years, said to them, "Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive," verses ~~20-21~~ 19B-20.

Joseph ~~knew~~ knew what had taken place and instead of seeing himself as the victim of his brother's evil deeds, he saw that God had used the situation to ~~bring~~ rescue many people from starvation and death. Here is a vivid picture of what God would do in a future time and place.

Joseph has been called the most complete type of Christ in all the Bible. Dr. Harold Wilmington a noted Biblical scholar writes of 21 similarities between Joseph and Jesus..

Listen to the list of them:

1. Both were beloved of their fathers
2. Both regarded themselves as shepherds
3. Both were sent to their brethren by their fathers
4. Both were hated by their brethren without cause
5. Both were plotted against by their brethren
6. Both were severely tempted
7. Both were taken to Egypt
8. Both were stripped of their robes
9. Both were sold for the price of a slave
10. Both were bound
11. Both remained silent and offered no defense
12. Both were falsely accused
13. Both experienced God's presence through everything
14. Both were rejected by their jailers
15. Both were placed with two prisoners, one of which was later lost, and the other saved.
16. Both were around thirty when their ministry started
17. Both were highly exalted after their sufferings
18. Both took Gentile brides
19. Both were lost to their brothers for awhile
20. Both forgave and restored their repentant brothers
21. Both were visited and honored by all earthly nations.

There are both Old and New Testament Scriptures to back up these 21 similarities. I'll be happy to supply them to anyone desiring them. But it all points to the fact that God was demonstrating in Joseph what He would do through Jesus. Everything that Jesus did was to show the love which God had for His ultimate creation. But with each thing that Jesus did, whether it was preaching, teaching, ~~healing~~ or healing it was viewed through prejudiced eyes. Those who should have known who He was, were the chief offenders in seeking His death. They believed that what they were doing when they had Him arrested, tried, ~~and~~ convicted, and executed was ~~for the best interests~~ in the best interests of the people. Like Joseph, Jesus could have said to them, "Ye thought evil against Me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass as it is this day, to save much people alive," verse 20.

They thought they were doing the world a favor in getting rid of this pest. Instead, they were merely following God's plan without realizing it. God meant all of this for the salvation of mankind.

(Illustration of little girl dying and uniting her quarreling parents through it)

The story is told of a little girl whose parents had a miserable marriage and had been divorced, having nothing in common except their affection for the little girl. One day as the little girl was playing in the street she was knocked down by a bus and seriously injured. Taken to the hospital, she was examined by the doctors but was found to be beyond human aid. The parents were called to the hospital and told the bad news. There they stood on either side of the bed looking down at helplessly at the little girl. As they stood there the little girl opened her eyes when she saw them there and tried to smile. Then drawing one arm from under the sheet she said, "Daddy, give me your hand." Turning to her mother she ~~stretched out her other arm~~ stretched out her other arm. "Mummy," she said, "Give me your hand." Then with a final effort of her fast-ebbling strength she drew them close together.

This is a picture of what Jesus did on the cross. The Savior took the hand of sinful, hateful humanity and placed it in the loving hand of God. Just as ~~the dying girl~~ it took the dying of the little girl to bring her parents together, Jesus died to bring all mankind back to God.

Our Scripture concludes with the words of Joseph, "Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones," verse 21A.

And this is what God says to all those who come to Him through Christ. He promises to take care of us and to nourish us and our little ones as well. That is His promise to those who turn their lives over to Him. But God always gives man the choice for his life. We can either turn to Him completely, or we can seek to go our own way. But sooner or later there comes a time when the dawn of what God has done for mankind through Christ comes to each of us. At that point we can choose to ignore it and continue to struggle in our own strength. Or we can turn our lives over to the Lord and let Him take charge.

Perhaps your life is in turmoil; you may seem to be all mixed up and have nowhere to turn. But if you will turn in the direction of God and turn your life over to Him, you will find what is missing.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 27, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Toni Jo Patsy and Mike Brunker

* * * * *

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Congregational Greeting

Joys

*Processional Hymn No. 595 "Lead On, O King Eternal"

*Ascription

*Call to Worship:

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye
lifted up ye everlasting doors; and the King
of glory shall come in. Who is this King of
glory? The Lord of hosts He is the King of
glory.

People: The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in
the tabernacles of the righteous.

Pastor: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the
Lord.

*Invocation (In Unison) God of truth and righteousness, we
praise Thee for the Master who rode in triumph into the
city of His fathers to challenge their evils. We thank
Thee that Jesus came, not as a conqueror to destroy,
but as a Messiah to save. In the spirit of praise and
reverence, we bow and with our tongues confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to Thy glory, our Father, Amen.

Children's Moment with Bob

Anthem: "The Palms" (Choir will sing through first.
Congregation will join choir on second singing of
this anthem as printed here for you.)

O'er all the way, green plants and blossoms gay,
Are strewn this day in festal preparation,
where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Sing and rejoice oh blest Jerusalem,
Of all Thy sons sing thee emancipation,
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem,
Brings faith and hope to thee for ever more.

Refrain: Join all and sing, His name declare, let
every voice resound with acclamation, Hosanna!
Praised be the Lord! Bless Him who cometh to
bring us salvation!

Offering
Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

The Reception of New Members

Anthem: "Lord I Believe In You"

Scripture: John 12: 12-15

Sermon: "Look At That Crowd!"

*Invitational Hymn No. 345 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

* * * * * *Congregation Standing * * * * *

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mrs. Genevieve Nohach and Beverly in loving memory of
Nickolas Nohach.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Snyder will greet our friends and members
this morning at the door.

Ushers for today are: Dick Mangel, Don Kingsley, Dick
Dally and George Pflugh.

Attendance last Sunday was 101 with 13 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Emogene Massey.

Marge Smiley and Shirley Thompson will be visiting the
hospital this week.

>Hospitalized: Charlie Penar and Jane Massart in BMH.
Mrs. Alma Rex in St. Margarets in Pitts.

WEDNESDAY - Choir practice will be held at 7:00 P.M.

There will be no Youth Choir practice.

>THURSDAY - Maundy Thursday service with the Lord's Supper
will be held at 7:30 P.M. in Remboth Hall

followed by the Reception for New Members.

We need cookies for the reception, so if you
would please bring some, let Helen Riemer know.

>FRIDAY - Good Friday service with the Lord's Supper
will be held at 7:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary.

The final results of the Fish Fry are not yet complete, but

it was a successful day. However, if you liked the fish
we served, you may want to purchase some of the extra

that is left over. We have it in the 8 oz. portion size.
If interested, please see Helen or Dick. We also have

some frozen french fries if you would like some of them.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your

life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to

pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire.

"Look At That Crowd!"

Scripture: John 12:12-15

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the next to last time in the year prior to His crucifixion. He was probably there for the Feast of the Passover. He had been preaching and teaching as He journeyed to Jerusalem and His arrival in Jerusalem had not gone unnoticed. But ~~these~~ some of those who noticed His arrival were some very unlikely friends. Luke records this event in the 13th chapter of His Gospel and in the 31st verse we read, (Read this verse). These Pharisees were not hostile to Jesus. They were concerned for His safety and warned Him that Herod was out to get Him. Jesus answers that His time is not yet up and He foretells of His ministry, His future life, and His death as Luke tells us in verses 32 & 33, (read these). Following this brief conversation we read of the deep feelings which Jesus had for this so called and named, "City of Peace," (read verses 34 & 35).

Jesus had come to Jerusalem all of His life, year after year for the Feast of the Passover. He had witnessed the commercialization of the Jewish faith,; had seen the indifference of the people; and had witnessed the ungodly actions and teachings of the religious leaders. He was predicting that the religious leaders, the general public, King Herod and ~~the~~ all others would not see Him again until ~~the~~ He came as the promised One they were all looking for. So a year later He spent 6 days at the home of His friends ~~xxxxxx~~ and Lazarus, and Mary., and Martha. They had prepared a feast for Him and He had been able to relax with them.

Now it was the next day, Sunday, the first day of the week and Jesus headed from Bethany to Jerusalem. The city was filled with people who had come ^{to celebrate the} ~~for the~~ Feast of the Passover.

News spread throughout the city that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. John tells this incident very simply by writing, (read verses 12 thru 15). ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~prophecyxxxxxxx~~ Jesus had graphically predicted that this would take place. He knew that in the prophecy of Zechariah it was predicted that He was to fulfill the role spoken of there. But Jesus was ~~imparting~~ showing forth in this triumphal entry that this scene will be repeated when He comes for the second time. There is coming a day in the future when once again Jesus Christ will come to Jerusalem and be acclaimed as "He that cometh in the name of the Lord." It is at that time that every knee shall bow and acclaim Him as the King of Kings. This Palm Sunday which is recorded in Scripture is merely the prelude to the other entry He will make and ~~the~~ following that Trimuphal Entry there will not be the need for Him to suffer death once again.

Had we been able to be present at that appearance of Jesus riding down the streets of Jerusalem we would have seen an interesting drama as it unfolded. Here in this "city of Peace" were gathered all of the forces which would play such a vital role in the final days of Jesus' life. Picture in your mind if you will that you are watching this parade pass by. It was a parade like any other. True it didn't have marching bands and floats, or motor-cars filled with dignitaries, but it was a parade pure and simple. The pomp and ceremony were there and the enthusiasm of the crowd was at fever pitch. The people lined and crowded the streets to catch a glimpse of the man of the hour. The first ones in that crowd who stand out are the close followers of Jesus. ~~xxxxxx~~ They are walking beside Him and in

back of Him. It is almost as though they were the police provided to escort Him along the parade route. But what was their thinking at this time? How did they perceive this sudden outpouring of acclamation and love? John tells of them very simply in the 16th verse where we read, (read this verse). "Look At That Crowd!" Just look at them and the first group of people you see are the "Perplexed Pupils" of Jesus. They are marching along with Him and they are in a quandry about Him. He had told them He was going up to Jerusalem and there He would be arrested, tried and condemned to death. At this point they didn't know what to expect. But a few days later Jesus had told them what to expect when He no longer was with them. They were heartsick when He told them He was going away. They had seen Him publicly acclaimed as a King on Sunday. Now He was telling them that He was leaving them. So it is that John records a part of that conversation in the 14th chapter and closing that conversation we read ~~xxxxxx~~ starting at the 25th verse, "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

At this time on Palm Sunday and the days following they didn't understand. But after Jesus was gone and the Holy Spirit had miraculously come into their midst and into their individual lives, then they understood. This is the best illustration of how important the Holy Spirit is. Living without the Holy Spirit leaves a certain mystery of God. When the Holy Spirit comes, He becomes the Teacher. He has a tremendous ministry in our lives. He not only indwells the believer but He speaks to the believers heart and life to motivate him to live for the Lord. Every believer should know the power of the indwelling Spirit which is in him from the time that person accepts Christ as his Lord and Saviour. But the average believer doesn't know this or take advantage of it because the average believer has been made to believe by some that the only evidence of the Holy Spirit is to be able to do large things or to speak in some strange tongue. The Holy Spirit speaks to each and everyone of you if you are a believer. But you may be ignoring His voice because you have been hoodwinked into believing you as an average person are incapable of doing anything worthwhile for the Lord. Have you ever had an urging to do something, (something legal and good that is), and you didn't understand why? If you followed through you discovered you did something, or said something that ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ was worthwhile. If you ignored it, you shut off the Holy Spirit and you didn't realize how God wanted to use you. The disciples of Jesus were His Perplexed Pupils in that crowd on Palm Sunday, but as John tells us when Jesus was glorified they understood completely.

John tells us in the 18th and 19th verses, (read these verses). John is telling us to "Look At That Crowd!" and see the Fickle Followers who were there. They had been near when Jesus had raised Lazarus from the grave; or they were at the site of His feeding of the 5000; or they had seen Him heal someone in a miraculous way. They ~~xxxxxx~~ knew of what He had done and they were looking for a ~~xxxxxxxx~~ repetition of things they had heard and seen. John tells us in the 6th chapter of his Gospel that there were disciples of Jesus who deserted Him and walked no more with Him. There are always those who are there for the thrills, the excitement. But when the thrills and excitement die down and life takes on the ordinary they go their own way. These Fickle Followers are the ones who shouted "Hosanna" on Sunday,

and on Friday shouted, "Crucify Him, crucify Him."

"Look At That Crowd!" as Jesus passes down the street and there you will see the faces of Frustrated Pharisees," and John tells it this way, (read verse 19). These men saw their plot falling apart. They were frustrated in what they had been trying to do. The Jews themselves recognized that there were good and bad Pharisees. We read of some good Pharisees at the Feast of the Passover the year before this Palm Sunday took place. Now ~~in~~ we see the faces in the crowd of the bad Pharisees, and it was the Jews themselves who divided them into seven different classes. There were the Shoulder Pharisees called this because they wore their good deeds on their shoulders and performed them to be seen of men. There was the "wait-a-little-while Pharisees." They could always find a good excuse for putting off until tomorrow a good deed that should be done today. There were the "bruised," or "bleeding Pharisees." No Jewish Rabbi could be seen talking to a woman on the street, not even his wife, mother or sister. But certain Pharisees went even further. They would not even look at a woman on the street; they shut their eyes to avoid seeing a woman; they therefore bumped into houses, and walls, and other obstacles and then showed their bruises as badges of their extraordinary piety. There were the "Hump-backed Pharisees." They walked bent double in a false and cringing humility. There were the "ever-reckoning Pharisees." They were always reckoning their good deeds and striking up a balance-sheet of profit and loss with God. There were the "timid" or "fearing Pharisees." They were ever in fear of the wrath of God, waiting for it to fall upon them or others. Then there were the "God-loving Pharisees." They were copies of Abraham and lived in faith and charity. We are told there may have been six bad Pharisees for every good one. Thus, we can see the "Frustrated Pharisees" in this throng watching Jesus ride by and saying to any and all who would listen, "Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? Behold, the world is gone after Him."

Then John tells us, (read verses 20 through 22). Here we see the "Seeking Sinners." These were Gentile proselytes to Judaism. These are the so called "greeks" of these verses.

"Jesus came to His own," the Jews, "And His own knew Him not," is what John tells us in the very first chapter of His Gospel. Because of this, the Gentiles heard and believed. These were the same ones who heard of the Messiah and came to the disciples Philip and said, "Sir, we would see Jesus."

They believed in Him and wanted to see Him and hear Him, and they took Him as their Saviour. This parade was not just a passing thing that happened once and was over. It happens over and over again with the same cast of characters. As we live life we still bump into the "Perplexed Pupils" of Jesus Christ, who are searching for life's answers. And there are ~~then~~ those who get them while others continue throughout most of life searching and seeking. There are always the "Fickle Followers" who are there when times are good, but who disappear when the storm begins to rage about them. There are always in the parade of life, the "Frustrated Pharisees" who know all of the rules and regulations and can point out when a believer supposedly steps out of line. And they can't abide anyone who doesn't believe every jot and tittle of the legalistic system they have built into the faith. There are always the "Seeking Sinners." They are the ones who are open to Gospel of Jesus Christ. They do not just make a profession of faith. Instead, they seek to grow and learn on a day by day,

basis. Theirs is not a ~~like~~ close-ended faith. It is alive and vital, and growing and they seek to continue that growth through church attendance, and Sunday School, and Bible study and anything that will give them more spiritual growth.

But face it! Isn't there in each person, ourselves included the secret desire to somehow, somehow, have our name up in lights for something we have done? Where beats within the heart of each man, woman, and child, at sometime, the wish for fame, or fortune, or both.

(Illustration of man receiving degree at university and acclaim with it)

A world famous scientist received an honorary degree at a large university. The president of the university introduced him as ~~ax~~ one of the world's great men. He said, "In fact, I believe I can say, he is one of the world's very great men. In fact," he continued, "I believe it is fitting and proper for me to acclaim him as one of the world's very, very great men." Driving home after the ceremony, he said to his wife, "Dear, how many very, very, great men do you think there are in the world?" She answered, "One less than you think there are dear. One less than you think."

Everyone craves attention; everyone desires to be recognized somehow, no matter what their station in life.

(Illustration of veteran missionary coming home and no formal greeting)

A missionary was returning home after 40 years on the mission field. This was back in the early 1900's and on board that boat was the President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt. He was returning from an African safari where he had been successfully hunting. As the ocean liner was safely berthed at its ~~like~~ dock in New York harbor, the missionary was standing at the rail looking down at the huge crowd which had gathered. When the gangplank was lowered, all of the stewards began unloading the trunks and luggage of the President. Then finally, the president was escorted down the gangway to the cheers and applause of the crowd, plus the army band playing to honor him. The missionary waited at the rail until all the other passengers had departed and then he reached down and picked up the battered old leather suitcase, ~~like~~ containing his only earthly belongings and slowly he trudged down the gangplank. The crowds had dispersed and he walked on all alone. It had just started to rain and he pulled up the collar of his worn and frayed overcoat. As he walked along the pier he was overcome by the fact that there wasn't one single person waiting to greet him. He silently spoke to the Lord and he said, "Is this the kind of greeting I receive for all my years of struggle and hard labor? Is this the thanks I get for sacrificing my family, my life for you? Couldn't you have sent just one person to welcome me and to say, "Well done, and welcome home?" And as he continued to trudge along with slumped shoulders and tears of sadness running down his cheeks, he heard the Lord speak to him, and the Lord said, "But my Son, you're not home yet."

Crowds may acclaim many people and some of them may be our friends and acquaintances. We may never hear a "Well done" from anyone. But be aware that there is One who awaits us in eternity and if we have served Him with love and devotion, He will one day welcome us each home and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Jesus received the plaudits of the crowd on Sunday, but look ~~what~~ what they did to Him on Friday. Jesus invites each of us, not to be part of the crowd, but to individually seek His will for our lives. We can't do that on a mob basis. It is done individually, personally. Let us acclaim "im not only today, but every day as He wants.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - APRIL 5, 1998
PALM SUNDAY

PRELUDE
GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

*HYMN
PRAYER/OFFERING
*DOXOLOGY
PASTORAL PRAYER
HYMN
SCRIPTURE: JOHN 12:12-15
SERMON: "LOOK AT THAT CROWD!" - ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 3/27/88
*HYMN
*BENEDICTION
*POSTLUDE

ANNA - ALICE
CHARN
ALICE/CATHY
LAIRD
KATHY
ABAT FAMILY
DEANARD

SCRIP: JOHN 12:12-15; SERMON: "LOOK AT THAT CROWD!"
~~(THIS CROWD KNEW OF HIS NAME & WANTED TO MAKE HIM KING)~~
~~(THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SAFETY & WANTED TO PROTECT HIM)~~
~~(THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SAFETY & WANTED TO PROTECT HIM)~~
THIS IS TH/ DAY WE REFER 2AS - PALM SUNDAY & WH/ OUR SCRIP IN
YOUR BOOK OF
BL IN ORDER BETTER UNDERST. THIS WE SHUD REMEMBER 2YR BA THIS EVENT
LK RECORD JS IN JERU FEAST PASOVR YR BA THAT WH/JOHN WRIT SCRIP
JS BIN PR/TEACH AS JOURNY 2JERU
WHIL DO SO HIS ARRIVAL DIDNT GO UNNOTICED
SURPRISINGLY, SEM THOZ WHO NOTIC WER VERY UNLIKLY FRIENDS
LUKE RECORDS THIS IN HIS GOSPEL CHAP 19
VS 31- THEY PHASE NOT HOSTIL 2JS
WE WIL LK AT PHASE AS GRP LATE ON, BUT KNOW LK AT THEZ AS FRIENDS
THEZ MEN WER CONCERN 4HIS SAFETY & WARN HIM ABOUT HEROD
VSS 32-33 JS REPLY HIS TIM NOT YET CUM
HE 4TELLS MINISTRY, FUTUR LIF & HIS DEATH
VS 34- HERE JS LAMENT OVS JERU - "CITY OF PEACE"
WE C IN THIS JS DEEP FEELINGS 4THIS CAPITOL OF JUDAISM-JEWRY
AS WELL AS HIS DEEP FEELINGS 4TH/PEOP
VS 35- HERE JS 4TELLS OF 2EVENTS
TH/FIRST EVENT WUD TAK PLAC IN TH/VERY NEX YR & JS WUDR ACLAIM
AS MESSIAH
TH/SECOND EVENT WUL TAK PLAC SUMTIM IN FUTUR WEN HS WIL RETURN
2JERU
AT THAT TIME HE WIL ACLAIM AS K OF KINGS, & L OF LORDS
JS HAD CUM 2JERU EA YR 4FEAST OF PASOVR
HE WITNES COMMERCIALIZATIN OF JEWISH FAITH
SAW TH/INDIC OF TH/PEOP
HAD WITNES UNGODLY ACTINS/TEACHINGS OF TH/RELIG LDERS
TH/ TIME WAS RIGHT A YR LATR 4TH/ACLAMATIN OF HIM SO JS SET THIS
I. OPTION

THIS WAS NOW TH/RT YR, TH/RT WK, TH/RT DAY, TH/RT HOUR
 TH/PROPHS HAD SAID THIS OUT VERY CLEARLY/EXPLICITLY
 TH/STAGE WAS SET & WAT TUK PLAC PRIOR 2 THIS SUNDAY HAD SET THAT
 STAGE
 JS HAD DELIBERADLY USED THEZ EVENTS WH/ FORCED TH/ RELIG LDERS 2 ACT
 FIRST, HE HAD RAISED LAZ FR/ THE DEAD HE HAD PERMIT LAZ 2 DY, &
 IT DELAY HEALING HE COUL HAV GIVN
 INSTEAD, ARIV AFTR LAZ RIN DEP 4 DAYS, & THEN RAIS HIM
 THEN MARY HAD ANCINT JS FEET W/ PERFUM & JS SAY SHE ANCINT HIM &
 RUHAIL
 THEN 2 EVENTS SET TH/ RELIG AUTHORTYS IN MOTIN & NOW A 3rd EVENT
 WYD TAK PLAC
 THIS WOT JN RELATES AS WE READ IN SCRIP. (READ VSS 12-13)

12 8/3

JN SAYS "MUCH PEOPLE"
 MANY THEZ YND 1st HAND, OP WITNES RESUP OF LY & SPRED WORD
 MANY OTHERS WER THEZ BCUZ RELIG LDERS HAD SPRED WORD
 ALL WANTS 2C THIS JESUS REED/KNE ABOUT/OR HAD SEEN IN ACTIN
 NOW PICTURE U R WATCH THIS PARAD GO BY
 NO BANDS/ELOCATE, BUT A PARAD FUR & SIMPL
 PCME/CEREMONY THEZ & ENTUS OF CROWD AT FEVR P/TCH
 EOPL LINE STREETS & CROWD/GRATE NEKS 2C THIS MAN OF TH/HOUR
 FIRST: THEZ THOZ WHO WER CLOS FOLLOWRS OF JS
 THEY WALK BSID HIM, BEHND HIM & ALMOV ACT LK POLIC ESCORT 4 HIM
 "LOOK AT THAT CROWD" - JN TELLS US - VS 16 (READ THIS VS)
 HERE R TH/PREFIEXED PUPILS OF JS
 JN SIMPLY SAY THEY NO UNDERST THEN, BUT AFTR H SP CUM THEY DID
 AT TH/LAST SUPPR JS HAD SED TO THEM: "THEZ THINGS HAV I SPOKN
 UN2 U, BEING YET PRESEN W/U. BUT TH/COMPETR, WH/IS TH/R SP,
 WHOM TH/F WIL SEN IN MY NAM, HE SHAL TEACH U ALL THINGS & BRING
 2UR REMEMBRANC MATSORYR I HAV SED 2U."
 THIS GUE ILL OF WORK OF H SP
 LIV W/OUT H SP LVS MYSTERY OF G, BUT WEN H SP CUM BCUM TEACHER
 HE INDCEL FA BLIEVR & MOTIVAT BLIEVR 2 LIV 4TH/WORD
 BUT AVG BLIEVR NO TAK ADVANTAG OF THIS BCUZ MISTAKN BLIEFS BOUTIT
 MISTAK=MUS SPK IN STRNG TONGUE, OR DO MIRAC THINGS

if this ur blief u bin hoodwink INP UR R INCAPABL OF DO WORTHWHIL
 WORK & TH/ICRD
 (EXAMPL ROW MOV P/D SUMTH, NO KNO WHY & IT PRIV WORTHWHIL & THIS
 ROW 4 SP WORK CUD LIVE)
 VSS 17-19=LOOK AT THAT CROWD & WE C PICKLE FOLLOWRS
 (EXAMPL=SAW LAZ RAIS, FREED SM, HEALING, ALL SORT MIRACLES THIN S)
 T' & CHOUT ROSANNA ON SUNDAY, FRIDAY CRY CRUCIFY HIM
 THEN LUK AGIN AT THAT CROWD & C FRUSTRATED PHARISEES - VS 19
 they frustrated BCUZ JS NO ACT AS THEY WANTED HIM TO
 BUT IN FA'RNES THEZ WER CUD/BAD PHARISEES & JEWS THEMSELVS
 POINTE THIS OUT & DIVIDED THEM IN 2 SEVERAL CLASSES
 WE HAD READ OF SUM GUD PHARS TH/YR 84 AT THIS FEAST OF PASOVR
 NOW WE C IN THIS CROWD TH/GRPS OF BAD PHARS
 1-WAT CAL=SHOULDR PHARS WOP GUD DEEDS ON SHOULDRS 2B SEEN BY MEN
 2-WAIT-4-WHIL PHARS, PUT OFF TIL 2MORRO WAT CUD DO 2DAY
 3-BROID/BLEEDING PHARS-NO JEW CUDS SEEN TALK 2 WOMEN ON STREET
 NOT EVN WIF/MOTHR/SISTR & THEZ WUDNOT EVN LK AT A WOMAN ON STR.
 THEY SHUT EYES AVOID C WOMAN & THEZ 4 BUMP IN 2 HOUSES, BLDGS,
 WALLS, & OTHER OBSTACLS & THEN SHOWD BRUSIES/BUMPS AS BADGES OF
 THEZ EXTHORINARY PIETY
 4-HUMP-BAKD-PHARS-WALK BENT DBL IN A FALS CRINGING HUMILITY
 5-EVR-RECKONING-PHARS-ALWAYS RECKN UP GUD DEEDS & STRIK BALANC
 SHEET OF DEBIT & LOSS W/GOD
 6-TIMID OR FEARING PHARS-EVN IN FEAR OF WRATH OF GOD & WAIT FOR IT
 2FAL ON THEM & OTHERS
 7-GOD LIVING PHARS-COPIES OF ABE & LIV IN FAITH & CHARITY
 WE R TOL THEZ MAY HAV BIN 6 BAD 2EVRY 1 GUD PHARISEE
 THUS WE C FRUSTRATD PHARS IN THIS CROWD, WATCH JS RIDE BY &
 REMARK - (VS 19)
 VSS 20-22=JN TEL US THEZ R "SEEKING SINNERS"
 THEZ "GREEKS" WER GENTILES
 JN TEL US CHAD 1-HE CAM UN2 HIS OWN & HIS OWN KNU HIM NOT
 E A OF THE TH/GENTILES HERD & BLIEVD
 THEY BLIEVE & WANTD 2HEAR HIM & TUK HIM AS THEZ SAVIOR
 THIS PARAD NOT JUC PASS THING IT HAPN OVER & OVER W/SAM CHARACTRS
 PERPLEX PUPILS=STIL SEECH HANGERS & GO THRU LIF W/OUT FIND THEM
 PICKL FOLLOWRS=THEY THEZ WEN TIMES R GUD, BUT DISAPPEAR WEN STORMS
 ARISE
 FRUSTRATD PHARISEES=KNC ALL RULES/REGS & CAN PT OUT WEN A BLIEVR
 STRDS OUT OF LINS & CANT STANTHOZ WHO NO BLIEV EVRY JCT & TITVL
 OF LEGALISTIC SYSTM THEY BILD INTO TH/FAITH
 SEEKING-SINNERS=THEY R OWN 2GOSPL OF JS XP, THEY MAK PROT OF FAITH
 & SEEK 2GRO EVRY DAY

(NEXT PAGE)

THERE IS NOT A CLOSE-ENDED FAITH

IT IS ALIV & VITAL & GROWING

THAT GROWTH EVIDENT IN CH/ATTENDANC, SUNDAY SKUL, BRL STUDY
& ANYTHING THAT WILL GIV ROR SPIRITUL GROWTH

BUT FACE IT!

NT THER W/IN EA PERSON OURSELVS INCLUDED A SECRET DESIR TO
PHON/SUMWAY HAV OUR NAM DP IN LITRS & SUMTH WE HAV DUN?????

THER BEATS W/IN TH/HARTOF EVRY MAN/WOMAN/CHILD AT SUMTIME THE
WISH FOR FAME OF FORTUNE OR BOTH

EVERYONE CRAVE ATTENTIN

EVERYONE DESIRES 2B RECOGNIZED SUMHOW, NO MATTER WAT THER STATIN
IN LIFE

(ILUS MISSIONARY RETURN HOME & NO FORMAL GREETING)

CROWDS MAY ACLAIM MANY PEOP & SUM THEM MAYB OUR FRNDS/AQUAINTS
WE MAY NEVER HEAR A "WELL DUN" FROM ANYONE

BUT B AWAR THER IS ONE WHO AWAITS US IN ETRNTY & IF WE HAV SEI

SERVED HIM W/LUV & DEVOTIN

HE WILL ONE DAY RECEIV US & WELCUM US HOME & SAY, "WEL DUN
GUD & FAITHFUL SERVANT"

JS RECEIVD TH/PLAUDITS OF TH/CROWD ON SUNDAY

BUT LK WAT THEY DID TO HIM ON FRIDAY

JS INVITES US NOT 2B PART OF TH/CROWD BUT 2INDIVIDULY SEEK
HIS WIL FOR OUR LIVS

WE CANT DO THAT ON A MOR BASIS

DONT GET CARRIED AWAY WITH TH/BOSANNAS & TH/HALELUJAH'S

JS DIDNT. HE KNU IT WAS A PASSIVE THING

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT JS IN THIS REASON UNLESS WE TALK ABOUT HIS
PASSION & DETH, ALL IS ONLY SUPERFICIAL

L... US ACCLAIM HIM AS LORD & SAVIOR NOT ONLY 2DAY, BUT EVRY DAY
AS HE WANTS

PERCEIVED PUPILS OF JS

STICKLE FOLLOWERS

PROPHETED PHARISEES-sever classes

1-SHOULDR PHARS-wor gud deeds on sholdrs 2R seen by men

2-WAIT-A-WHILE PHARS-put off til 2marro wat cud dc 2day

3-BRUISED,RIEPPING PHARS-no Jew Rabbi cudR seen talk 2

wom on st-not eve wid/mothr/sistr & thez went 4thr

'shut eyes,bump in2 bldgs,wals,etc & then sho bruises

4-HUMP-PAKED-PHARS-walk bent dbl in fals/cring humilty

5-PVR-RECKONING PHARS-evr reckon gud deeds & strikup

balanc sheet prof/loss w/G

6-TIMID or FEARING PHARS-evr in fear wrath of G,wait 4

it 2fal on them or othrs

7-GOD-LIVING PHARS-copies of Abraham & liv in faith &

charity

we told ther f bad to evry 1 gud Phar

SEEKING SINNERS-Gentile proselytes to Judaism

"Look At That Crowd!"

Scripture: John 12:12-15
 Js was in Jeru 4th nex las tim in yr prio 2 His crucifix & it prol was Feast Passov
 had bin preach/teach as jurny 2ward Jeru & not go unnotic
 Sum thoz who saw wer very unlikly friends-lk 14:31 tel us
 Thez Phars wernt hostil 2Js-they concern His safty & warn bout He
 Js answr-vss 32-33
 vss 34-35=tell us of Js deep feelings 4-City of Peace
 Js cum Jeru all lif, yr aftr yr 4-Feast; had seen comercilizatin of Jew faith; seen indif of peo; witness ungodly actins relig ldrs
 He was predic relif ldrs, gen pub, K Herod & othrs no C until
 He cam as th/One prom they lk 4
 So lvr latr, spen 6day w/friends Bethany; had feast, relax & nex day Sunday start 4 Jeru
 City fil w/peo cum celbrat Feast Passovr
 news spred thrupt city Js cum Jeru & Jn tel us-vss 12-15
 Js had graphically predic this wud tak plac
 He knu proph Zech, but also 4told His 2nd cum that in futur
 He wudR acclaim as: Th One who cum in Name of th/Lord
 At that tim, evry knee shal bow & acclaim as K Of K's
 this Psalm Sun only prelude 2 that tim
 Had we bin abl 29 present that appear of Js wud hav seen intrest drama unfol
 Here in City of Peac C forces pathr play vital roles final days of Js lif
 Pictur in Ur mind if U wil that U R watch parad pas by
 Ther no floats, no bands, no motorcars fil w/celebrtys
 It was a parad pure & simpl
 th peo lin sts & ther enthusias at fevr pitch
 peo lk 4 th/Man of th/hour
 lvr ones 2atan out & R th/clos followrd of Js, they walk w/Him & al...s lik polic escort along parad rte
 But wat was ther think? How perciv outpour lov, acclaim?
 vss 16=In tel us-lk At That Crowd! Jus lk at them & this 1st grp U C R th Perplexed Pupils of Js
 They march w/Him & in quandrv bout Him; He tol go Jeru arest, try, die & they no know wat 2exrec
 Few day latr Js tol wat expec & they hartsik; saw Him as king & now tel Him He lv them, & Jn tel us=14:25
 No undrston on P Sun, but latr did wen Js plorfv
 this best illus 4 Sp & valu/import of Him
 (Thus H Sp & individ Blievr, & how shud hav Him smal not big)
 Jn tel us they Perplex Pupls, but aftr C completly
 vss 18-19 lk At That Crowd=& ther Fickl Followers
 bin near wen fed 5M, wen Laz rais, Js heal sik & lk reptitin same
 Jn tel chap 6-sum thez discip ls lv Js, walk no mor w/Him

dwn & ordnary lif tak ovr, they go ther own way
 Thez fickl followers shout Hosanna on Sun, & Crucify Him, on Fri
 lk At That Crowd! & U wil C faces of Frustratd Pharisees-vss 19
 they frustrat in wat want 2do
 Jews themselvs tol of gud/bad Phars & ther 2 kinds classes (Plus of them)
 v 20-22=Jn tel us of Seeking Sinners & thez wer Gentil proslyt
 & Judaism
 thez P th/Grks of thez vss
 Js cam 2His own, & His own knu Him not=Jn say Bgin Gospl & Bcur this, Gents herd & Bliev
 thez wer 1's who herd of Mesiah & cam 2discip Phil & sed=213
 They Bliev in Him, want 2C Him, hear Him, & tuk as Savior
 This parad no was thing hagn only then, it hagn ovr & ovr agin w/same cast of characters
 As we liv lif keer bump in2:
 Perplex pupils Js Xp who serch 4 life's ansrs: & ther thoz find
 whil othrs continu 2serch/seek
 Fickl Followers who ther wen times gud, & disapear wen times get bad & strom rage rnd them
 Frustrated Pharisees who kno all rules/regs & pt wen Bliev'r step out of line & cant abid anyl who duznt liv up 2 evry jot & titl of legalistic system they hav bilt in2 th/faith
 Seeking Sinners they P th 1's open 2Gospl of Js Xp; they no jus mak prof of faith but gro, lern, day by day; ther faith no close ended but aliv/vital & groCh, SS, Bibl study, seek ap growth
 But face it, Pn't ther thoz seek acalm? Isnt ther in ea persn th desir, secret, perhaps 2hav our names up in lites 4sumth we did?
 Ther beats w/in hart ea man, woman, child at sumtim th/wish 4fame fortun or ooth
 (Thus man adres as very, verv grt man, & wif putdwn)
 P...craw atentiv; evrl desir 2P recogniz sumhow no mattr who/wat (Thus misionary return home & no greeting)
 Crowds mav acclaim many peo & sum them mavh our friends/aquaints
 We mav nev'r hears=del dun fr/anyl
 But R awar, ther One who await us in eternty & if hav serv Him w/lov devotin wil one day welcum us home & sav=del dun gud & faith? serv
 Js receiv plaudits of crowd on Sun, but lk wat hagn on Fri
 Js invits ea us not 28 part of crowd, but 2individ, persnly seek His wil 4our lives
 Let us acclaim Him not only 2day, but evry day as He wants

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor March 31, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

+ + + + +
MAUNDY THURSDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.

Prelude

*Hymn No. 588 "In The Garden"

I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on
the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice, Is so sweet the
birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

Refrain: And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

*Call to Worship:

Pastor - When it was evening, He sat at the table with
His disciples.

People - As they were eating He said, "The Son of man
goes as it is written of Him."

Pastor - Let us seek Him in confession.

*Prayer of Confession (In Unison) Father you sent Your
Son that we might have life. He invited His disciples
to share in the evening meal, breaking of bread and the
pouring of wine. He invited them to receive His gift
of love and the offering up of Himself; and He invites
us now to receive that same gift of grace. May we be
drawn together by the breaking of bread and know the
joy of sin forgiven, even as we forgive those who sin
against us. Cleanse us anew and hear us as we confess
our sins and shortcomings this night. This we pray in
our Master's name. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Announcements

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Communion Hymn No. 258 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Our thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Institution and Consecration of the Elements

Distribution of the Bread

Distribution of the Cup

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem: "The Old Rugged Cross" Men's Chorus

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18: 15-19

Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Prophet

*Hymn No. 260 "And Can It Be That I Should Gain?"

And can it be that I should gain,
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me.

Refrain on back page.

"Shadowy Portents: Prophet"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Mos, G's chosn ledr giv 2Jew peo instrucs need 2tak ther plac in land wh/G giv 2them

all thez things neces 4ther welB

vs 15A=Mos simply repeat wat G tol writ & say

bu' this uttranc had mor far-reach result than peo realiz at th tim

thez peo liv in ancient land & no realiz wat histry mus tak plac

B4 this proph fulfil

felo Mos ther were prophs & prophs, but this prophcy is for onl;

ONE proph

Lk=it say "A" proph, & that ONE proph was 2B uniqu & dif

vs 15B=this proph 2B fr/ranks, fr/one ther tribes=not a foreignr not a stranger, but one they wud kno

vs 15B=lik un2 me=lik Moses & Mos add vs 18=read expl

this futur proph will spk 2-G fac 2 fac jus lik Mos did

fr/this peo Bgan realiz this proph was 2B prom One of Israel

Th/Mesiah they wer tol wud cum & was 2B G's anointd ONE

vs 15C=It not matt'r of choic=it Comand

Wat He wudB say was wat G want Him 2say

His words wud B G's words

but G knu man had & exercis frewil 2his detriment

vs 19=G add warning & in othr word, G say wud provid perf proph 4

mank & this proph wudB G's spokesman

watevr this proph wud say, & peo no harkn, G wud chrg that unBlief 2 th/acct of that persn

So here proph of 1900 yrs 2pas R4 it was 2B fulfil

Mos remain ult proph of G Bcuz situ w/G was unique

He spok 4-G & G spok 2him

in livs othr prophs G's revs wer in dreams/visins

but ea was pt 2th final one who was 2cum

j/Elish wer considr highly Bcuz did suprnaturl act lik Mos

New peo quest whethr thez wer prom Messiah

but ea pas fr/seen & yrs go by until yng man mak stir in Nazareth

as fam mirac deeds Bgan spred thru Palstin quest arose=Is this 1?

is this 1 seek? Jus who is this man? Is he fr/G? An imposter?

& so was w/fam, ther aros hatred Bcuz relig ldrs & thoz in auth-
orty no accpt Messiah as cum f/humbl Bgins

& w/this hatred, plans 2hav eliminat set in motin & evently comple-
& He was slain

But aros fr/ded, seen by many othrs & auhtortys try disprov

Acts 3-read Petr/Jn preach templ-vss 11-19

Petr cum 2meat of mesag & tel peo=vss 20-26

" exp wat G ment wen spok thru Mos in Deut 18

proph was Js Xp, actul G in flesh of Js among men

Js spok words, & thoz words wer mesag of salv=givnes & etrnal lif

deth & resur giv this 2thoz who accpt as L & Sav of livs

Thoz rejec G no giv salv thru Js Xp & this mesag of Scrip

Do U truly kno Him as L of lif? R we harkn 2wat tel us 4livs?

"Shadowy Portents: Prophet"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Moses, God's chosen leader is giving to the Jewish people the instructions they needed to take their place in the land which God was giving to them. All of these things were necessary for their well-being.

He tells them, ~~(xxxxxxRxxxxxx)~~ "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me, unto him ye shall hearken."

Moses was simply repeating what God told Him to say and write. But this utterance had more far reaching results than these people probably realized at this time. These people lived in this ancient land and weren't thinking in terms of history 1900 years away. But this is actually what Moses was saying whether he knew it or not. Following Moses, God sent prophet after prophet, but each of them were merely men speaking for God at a specific time and place. But this promise which Moses is repeating was to be for ONE specific prophet. Notice the words, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee "A" prophet. That is ONE prophet who will be unique and different.

This prophet was to come ~~from~~ "From the midst of thee." In other words, this prophet was to come up from the ranks; from one of their tribes; and that means he would not be a foreigner, or a stranger, but one they would know. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

Then they were told, "Of thy brethren, like unto me." This coming prophet would be like Moses. Then in the 18th verse, Moses re-iterates God's words by saying, "I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words, (God's words), in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

This future prophet will speak to God face to face just as Moses did. From this the people began to realize that this prophet was to be the promised One of Israel. The Messiah they were told which would come and was to be God's Anointed One.

The people were instructed by God as Moses recorded in the last phrase of the 15th verse, "Unto him ye shall hearken."

It wasn't a matter of choice. It was a command, "Ye shall hearken." What he would be saying was what God wanted him to say. His words, would be God's words.

But God knew that man had free-will and ~~xxxxxx~~ exercised that free-will to his detriment. So God added a warning as the 19th verse points out, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto My words which he shall speak in My name, I will require it of him."

In other words, God was saying that He would provide the perfect prophet for mankind and this prophet would be God's ~~xxxxxx~~ spokesman. And whatever this prophet would say and the people did not pay attention to those words, God would charge that unbelief to the account of that person.

So here is this prophecy that was given in the ancient past and approximately 1900 years were to pass before it would be fulfilled. Moses remained the ultimate prophet because his situation with God was unique. He was the only one who spoke with God and God spoke to him. In the lives of the other prophets, God's revelations were in visions and dreams. But each one of the prophets was pointing to the final one who ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ was to come. Thus it was that prophets such as Elijah and Elisha were considered so highly by the Jewish people because they were able to do supernatural acts much like Moses did. The people questioned if these

two were the promised Messiah. But then they each passed from the scene and the years slowly went by until a young man began to make a stir in and around Nazareth. As the fame of His miraculous deeds began to spread throughout the nation of Palestine, the question repeatedly arose, "Is this the One we seek? Just who is this man? Is He from God? Or is He merely another imposter?" And so it was that with His fame, there also arose a hatred of Him because the religious leaders and those in authority didn't accept the Messiah as coming from such humble beginnings. And with this hatred, the plans to have Him eliminated were set into motion and eventually that plan was completed and He was slain. But His followers told of His resurrection from the dead, and in fact, He was seen by many, many others. But once again, those in authority did everything within their power to have this disproved. So it was that Peter and the other disciples went out into the world preaching and teaching in the name of this Jesus person.

Shortly after Jesus had ascended into heaven, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, Peter and John were in the temple and Peter healed a lame man. Luke records this event in the 3rd chapter of his book of Acts. We read, (read verses 11 through 19).

Then Peter comes to the meat of his message and tells these people, (read verses 20 through 26). Peter has expounded what God meant when He spoke through Moses in that Scripture from Deuteronomy 18. The message was and is that God would send a prophet much, much greater than Moses. That prophet was Jesus Christ, actually God in the flesh living among men. That Jesus spoke God's words and those words were the message of salvation through Him alone.

For anyone who accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior they heard the words of God, and they hearkened to His voice and received salvation, forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. But to those who rejected the words of Jesus Christ, and didn't hearken to Him, God required of them the salvation which could have been theirs. That, basically and simply is what God was saying through Moses in our Scripture for this evening.

In that "Shadowy" past, God revealed the "Portent" of what would take place in the future. We have the completed revelation in God's Word that this prophet foretold, was none other than our Savior Jesus Christ. Do we truly know Him as Lord of our lives? Are we hearkening to what He tells us for our lives?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 1, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

GOOD FRIDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
*Processional Hymn No. 253 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"
*Call to Worship
Pastor - Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed.
Let us therefore, celebrate the festival, with
the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
*Prayer of Confession
Pastor - Father, in trembling awe, we recall the broken
body and wounded flesh, crucified for our sins
on Calvary's lonely summit.
All: Lord, You are both bread and wine unto our
famished souls, sustenance for our pilgrim
journey.
Pastor - In trembling awe, we hear the terrifying cry
that shivers from the darkness of Calvary:
"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?"
All: Lord, there are seasons in our lives when we
have forsaken You. We have left undone that
which we ought to have done according to Your
Word because we think too often of ourselves
rather than of Your sheep whom we are charged
to feed, nurture, comfort, and liberate.
Pastor - In trembling awe, we hear again the words spoken
to friends in the Upper Room: "Do this in
remembrance of Me."
All: In remembrance of You, we celebrate Your light
in our lives, beckoning us to a common witness
of love, service, and sacrifice.
Pastor - In trembling awe, we claim our inheritance as
Your people, called and set apart as disciples
for our time.
All: Lord, from the altar of our hearts we offer
these our requests as we gather at Your table.
Let this be our prayer as we lift these words
of confession in the name of Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon
Pastor: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was
bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement
of our peace was upon Him; and with His
stripes we are healed. Amen.

Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Communion Hymn No. 251 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"
*Invitation to Communion
*Institution and Consecration of the Elements
Distribution of the Bread
Distribution of the Cup
*Prayer of Thanksgiving
Anthem: "Lord, Let Me Walk"
Scripture: Matthew 12: 38-41
Sermon: "Shadowy Portents: Sign"
Hymn No. 270 "I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary"
*Benediction
*Postlude
*Congregation Standing
Mrs. Mid Diefenderfer will greet our members and guests
at the door this evening.
Nursery will be provided tonight by Mrs. Fanson Hindman
and Joy.
LOVE JUVENES will be dedicated during the worship service
on Sunday, so please be sure to bring them in.
There are still some Easter Eggs for sale. You may see
Helen Riemer after the service if you are interested in
buying any.
EASTER LUNcheon SERVICE will be held at 6:30 A.M. We
hope you plan to come join us as we begin our day
of celebration to the risen Savior. 8:11:00 A.M. Service
DATE: 11:00 A.M. SERVICE:
April 4 - Benevolence Committee will meet at 7:00 P.M.
6 - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.
11 - VBS meeting at 7:00 P.M.
11 - Sunday School Teachers meeting at 8:00 P.M.
(Tuesday April 5, 7 to 9 Elders/Deacons Leadership Training classes
Thursday April 7, 7:00 to 8, New members classes

CHANNEL P. 12:15
HAROLD 12:15
BOA T. 12:15

"Shadowy Portents: Sign"

Scripture: Matthew 12:38-41

Perhap one of bes storys of OT=Jonah & comon cal=Th/Whale

hidn w/in story is part wat G desir 4mank

T sur U herd varius thots pertain 2 Jonah=whthr real man/fictir
or way lk hisricity Jonah ask=Wat did Js say bout him?

Portin Scrip red tol us & furthr need undrst Js no spk mythical
peopl

Also, He spok relatship wat hapn Jonah pr, & wat no hap w/His pr
Thus lnce agin & 4las tim this series we lk wat hapn ancient pas
& how was "Portent" wat G wud bring 4th latr tim

Jonah was Galilean & thus shar kinship w/Js this pt

Jonah mean Dove & similarity 2 Js (pt out H Sp lik Dove=Peace)

Ther sevrl aspec cud pt out bout Jonah, but lk only swallo by fist
Jonah disobd 2-G & go oposit direc & G divinly appt ~~storn~~ storn
& fish

3 days & nites Jonah in fish; Jonah go Ninevha & peo repent

centuryrs go by & Js of Naz pr in & arnd Jeru

in 1st yr of minstry read of vs 38

A sur sign that man was G's man was signs/miracles

Moses, Elijah, 4lisha all pruv this

vs 39=this only sign Js sed wud giv

vs 40-41=whil they try decid wat He sed He add this

He say 1day peo Ninevah ris up in judgmen agin Jews & condemn

Bcuz they repent at pr of Jonah & Jews no listn 2pr suml grtr
than Jonah

He sed wud giv no grtr sign than simlarty tween self & Jonah
cum bak 2lif

Js tel of resur & how ilus Jonah was sign of it

In ordr 4 Js 2sho this sign mus dv

r He dv was burv

but ther R thoz want argu Js & Jonah not sam 3dyas & nites

Expl: Jews reckon a part of day as a day=Fri aftrnoon=1 day

Friday nite 6 nu day; Sat nite 6nu day

G declar thru Galilean Jonah, th/Dove in futur wudB event similar

only dif was Js cum 4th fr/Grav brot life 2any & all who cum 2

G thru Js

Can C fr ilus G had plan wh/reveal litl by litl in livs many

servs rt up 2tim of Js cum 2 erth

Ea step of plan had certin mean as it B liv out in shadowy

recesses of ancient times

we need tak hart & comf in fac G provid 4our salvatin thru

Js Xp

vocry ours thru Him

And while they are trying to decide just what it is He is saying, He continues by saying, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Ninevah shall rise in judgement with this generation and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah is here," verses 40 & 41.

He is saying that one day the people of Ninevah would one day rise in judgement against the Jews and condemn them because they repented at the preaching of Jonah and yet, the Jews would not listen to the preaching of someone greater than Jonah. He said that He would give them no other sign than the similarity between Himself and Jonah coming back to life as it were. Jesus is foretelling His resurrection and how the illustration of Jonah was a sign of it.

In order for Jesus to show this sign He had to die. After He died, He was buried. But there are those who want to argue that Jesus was not literally in the grave for three days and nights like Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish. The answer is quite simply that the Jews reckoned a portion of a day as being one day when they reckoned time. Jesus was buried late Friday afternoon and since that Friday it was considered as the first day. The Sabbath, or Saturday began at sundown at 6:00 P.M. and that started another day. So Saturday was the second day in the tomb. Then Sunday, the first day of the week began at Sundown or 6:00 P.M. Saturday evening and that began the third day. So it involved a technicality of a few hours.

God declared through the Galilean Jonah, the Dove, that in the future a similar event would take place in the distant future. The only difference was, that the significance of Jesus coming forth from the ~~same~~ grave brought life to any and all who would come to God through Christ. We can see from this illustration that God had a plan which He revealed little by little in the lives of many of His servants right up to the time of Jesus coming to earth. Each step of His plan had a certain meaning as it was being lived out in the shadowy recesses of ancient times. We need to take heart and comfort in the fact that God has provided for our salvation through Jesus Christ. The victory is ours through Him.

"Shadowy Portents: Sign"

Scripture: Matthew 12:38-41

Perhaps one of the best known stories of the Old Testament is the story of Jonah and what is commonly called "the whale." But hidden within the story is a part of the true meaning which God desired for mankind.

I am sure that you have heard the different thoughts pertaining to Jonah and whether he was a real man, or a mythical character who never existed. ~~Perhaps~~ The only way to look at the historicity of Jonah is to ask the question, "What did Jesus have to say about him?" The answer of course is found in that portion of Scripture we just read. To further answer the question we need to understand that Jesus didn't speak of mythical people. Also, He spoke of Jonah in relationship to what happened with Jonah's preaching and what had not happened with His preaching to the Jews. Thus it is that once again, and for the last time in this series we will look at something which happened in the ancient past and how it was a "Portent" of something that God was going to bring forth at a later time.

Jonah was a Galilean and thus he shared a kinship with Jesus from that standpoint. The name "Jonah" meant, "Dove." During the early ministry of Jesus, the Spirit of God descended upon Him and the Gospel writers tell us it was in the form of a Dove. A Dove is the symbol of Peace and this is what Jesus was called, "The Prince of Peace."

Now there are several different aspects we could point out about the life of Jonah but for our use at this time we need to only look at the aspect of Jonah being swallowed by a large fish. Jonah was disobedient to God and sought to go in the opposite direction from which God wanted him to go. Because of this, God divinely appointed a storm that threatened the lives of everyone on board the ship on which Jonah was going away from Ninevah. Because of that storm the crew came to the conclusion that it was Jonah who was threatening their lives by being on that ship. Jonah suggests that they throw him overboard to calm the storm. The sailors do just that and God had appointed a large fish to swallow him up. For three days and nights we are told that Jonah was in the belly of this large fish. At the end of that time, the fish spits Jonah up on the dry land from whence he goes to Ninevah and preaches the message God had first given to him. The people of Ninevah repented and turned to God and nothing is heard again of this prophet named Jonah. Centuries go by and Jesus of Nazareth is preaching and teaching in and around Jerusalem. So it is in the first year of His earthly ministry that He is approached by some scribes and pharisees. They had heard that He was being acclaimed as the Messiah and they wanted to see if He really was the long awaited ONE. So Matthew tells us, "Then certain scribes and pharisees answered saying, 'Master, we would see a sign from Thee.'" verse 38.

A sure sign that a man was indeed God's man, was a sign of something miraculous. Moses, considered to be one of the greatest of the Jewish fathers performed many signs; so did Elijah and Elisha. So it was only natural that to prove Himself, Jesus had to perform special signs and wonders.

So what did Jesus do? He answered them we are told by saying, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah," verse 39.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 3, 1968
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Guest Speaker: Mr. Boyd Smith

+ + + + +
EASTER SUNRISE ORDER OF WORSHIP 6:30 A.M.

Prelude

Pastor: Our Lord has risen from the dead! Christ has
conquered death to bring new life to man! He
lives today and for all eternity! Alleluia!!

*Hymn of Joy - "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Sour we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia! Amen.

*Call to Worship

Pastor - Now is Christ risen from the dead, and
become the first fruits of them that slept.
People - For since by man came death, by man came
also the resurrection of the dead.

Pastor - For this corruptible must put on incorr-
uption, and this mortal must put on
immortality.

People - O death, where is thy sting? O grave,
where is thy victory?

*Invocation

Hymn "He Lives"

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him He's always near.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, Rejoice, O Christian lift up your voice and sing
Eternal Hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

Chorus:

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's
narrow way.
He lives, He lives salvation to impart,
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my
heart!

Easter Prayer

*Anthem: "Christ Arose"

Scripture: Matthew 16:15

Sermon: "But Who Do You Say That I Am?"

*Hymn "Because He Lives"

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy He gives;
But greater still the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Chorus: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives all fear is gone,
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because
He lives.

Benediction:

Pastor - We have come again to the empty tomb. We are loved, forgiven and made new through our Risen Savior Jesus Christ.

People - Through Him we have passed out of death into life.

Pastor - The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Go in peace. Amen.

Announcements:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Boyd Smith for being with us this morning, and for bringing us a message of Easter.

Love Loaves will be dedicated during the 11:00 A.M. service. If you did not bring yours you may do so next Sunday.

Easter Eggs are still available in case you forgot someone on your Easter list. Stop in the kitchen after the service.

Leadership Training Classes for the Elders and Deacons who were nominated will begin April 5th from 7 - 9 each evening. This will be held on every Tuesday for six weeks.

**EASTER
SUNRISE
SERVICE**



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 3, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Meron Hew's
+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
Trumpet Introit by Danny Mangel and Dale Rice
Call to Worship:
Pastor - Why seek ye the living among the dead?
He is risen!
People - He is risen indeed!
Pastor - Let us worship God
*Processional Hymn No. 289 "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"
*Invocation (In Unison) Almighty God, whose Son, our
Savior Jesus Christ, broke the seal of the tomb and
came forth in glory, we laud and magnify Your holy name.
Let us see the cross and then the empty tomb for we
cannot stand hopeless before such glory. Let Jesus who
conquered the grave, sin and death, come into our
hearts, our homes, and our church. May He conquer our
wills and our lives to reign supreme in each of us this
Easter Day. Let the Light of Your Word be a lamp to
our feet, and the Light of the Risen Christ a beacon to
our path. In His name we pray. Amen.
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 298 "Christ Arose"
Easter Prayer
Easter Offering (All offerings, envelopes, loose change,
and Love Leaves are to be brought forward and placed
in the boxes provided for the same)
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Dedication of Love Leaves
Offering Prayer
Easter Anthem: "Majesty"
Scripture: Luke 24: 1-9
Sermon: "Come Home"

*Hymn No. 292 "Because He Lives"
*Benediction
*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +
The Lillies on the Chancel area may be picked up following
the service. If you need help the Ushers will assist.
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hollefreund will greet our members and
friends at the door this Easter morning.
Ushers for today are Marty Henry, Frank Crawford, John
Snow and Jeff Snyder.
Attendance last Sunday was 162 with 21 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Kelly Mangel and Wendy
Norman.
*Hospitalized: Charlie Penar and Jane Massart in BMH - OUT
Mrs. Alma Rex in St. Margaret's in Pitts.
Bill Pflugh and Paul Campbell will be visiting the
hospital this week.
SCHEDULE FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK:
April 3 - NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
4 - Benevolence Committee meeting at 7 P.M.
6 - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.
Dates to Remember:
*April 11 - VBS meeting at 7:00 P.M.
Sunday School Teachers meeting at 8:00 P.M.
During the worship service we will dedicate the Love
Leaves and all other offerings at the same time.
Please bring your offering whatever it may be, (envel-
opes, loose change, etc.), to the Chancel rail and
place it in the boxes provided for this at the time of
the offering.
If you forgot to bring your Love Loaf this morning, you
may bring it in next Sunday.
*Leadership Training Classes for the Elders and Deacons
who were nominated will begin April 5th from 7 to 9
P.M. and continue for six weeks every Tuesday. So if
are one of those nominated, we hope you will make every
effort to attend. NEW MEMBER CLASS - THURS APR 7-7
Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed
by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for
reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations
you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to
pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself
of this opportunity.

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Community Bible Church - Sagamore, Pa. Easter April 19, 1992

Prelude

Announcements/Greetings/Joy/Prayer Requests

Ascription

Call To Worship:

BUT NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND BECOME THE
FIRSTFRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT.
O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING? O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY?
THANKS BE TO GOD WHO GIVETH US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST.

*Hymn

Offering/Prayer

*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer

*Hymn

Scripture: Luke 24:1-9

Sermon: "Come Home" - St. Paul's Butler 4/3/88

*Hymn

*Benediction

*Postlude

PLINY 1st centry AD coin phras=ROM IS WHEN TH/MART IS
expl - how many things 2many pco

(Ilus girl not abl standup in class Room no tak bath)
(Ilus old boys - teach us walk,talk,& then its-sit dwn &
shut up)
(Ilus girl fathr mov all ovr place & sumone sed=Its 2bad U dont
hav a hom lik evrone els - reply:Oh we hav a hom,we jus dont
hav a house 2put it in)

Ja & no home - Bethany Mary,Martha,Laz closes
Last days & dreams chatrd

EXPL:

VSS 1-10

women in society, 11 discip

Lerned All was not lost - JS WAS ALIV

(Ilus George/Rosie & My Wild IRISH ROSE)

VS 11= No Bliev

VS 12=Petr

that nite Js appear & they Bliev

VS 8=Prob remembr words Jn tel us 14th chap

VS 3=In My F's house,etc - no place on earth,but home in glory

(Ilus B Graham,& Grandfather write+Come Home)

SUNDAY LUV HAND WIL PLAY OUR SHOULDERS & BRIEF MESAG GIVN,

"COME HOME"

in ord 2 COME HOME - maa kno way

(Ilus lost boy & TAK ME 2 TH/CROSS ON TH/HILLSIDE)

eros place ther by luv Hwnly F

altho men try put dwn G,no succeed

Js Xp is aliv

1. extend invitatin to COME HOME thru His shed blood

th/Easter mesag always has bin & always wilB,

CHRIST IS ALIVE, COME HOME

Come Home

Scripture: Luke 24:1-9

In 1st C-AD Romn Plny sed Hom is wher th hart is"
a hom is mant thing 2manv peo & a shak may seem unfit dwell plac
4peren of means,but 2occupant it is hom

we prob receiv bes perspectives of wat hom is fr/littl childrn
(I' a littl girl & can not stan up & say tuk bath)
(I' a 2-8yr old boys & probs w/parents=taut walk,talk,shutup)
(I'us littl girl & hav hom,jus no hav hous 2put it in)
similar 2situ discipis Js find selvs in

entri lngth Js minstry travl w/Him fr/plac 2plac & hav no perm
residenc

Perhap closes thin 2residenc was hous Bethany-Laz,Mary,Martha
jus bin ther previus wk prior 2arivl in Jeru

wk star w/gran welcum in? Jeru of Mastr Js

4them it glorius tim & mus hav seem lik Js finly get recognitir

But as wk progress Js tol many thing wh/at tim seem strang 2them
taut bout futur thing & tol thing wud hpn 2Him in near futur

They wer sad,but prob no complet undrst wat He sav 9cuz cudnt
Bliev anyl wud actuly put 4in 2deth

But undrstud wen ate las meal w/Him & He arest
they fled 4very livs & during exil wer made awar agin,they had no
perm residenc,no plac 2cal home

In all prob stav friends hous,hid fr/feliz authorivs in fear 4
own safty

whil in hide word receiv Js out 2deth & bury in gardn tomb
as far as they concern,dream shatr & thoz yrs spent w/Him wer
ovr

Ther was no kinsdm o/ wh/they a part of that gone by
felt lik huntid criminals & givn up wtk all 2felo wat mus hav
seeg lik idl dream

so whil 11 Blievers hidout,Ik tel us othrs Blievers cumout hiding
o/ pecil missin

vs 1st day was Sun & cum perform finl burial 4 Js
fnd ston rolway-vs 4

naturl expec find ston in plac & body ther also
now here mystry,& ask as othr wat this ment???

vs 4A-perples mean-in Gr non-plussed=unabl 2go on,2spk,simply at
loss in all this

vs 4B-recogniz in presenc angle-ord peo no wear shin garments
vss 5-7-1* them all transpir ovr 3yr period wh/had bin w/Him

fell in2 plac
vs 8-9-Ik tel us simply thez things

Who wer peo cum 2tomb & tol 1st gud news of Js aris?
Ik say-vs 10-in socity womn considr 2nd clas citizen this examp

how G entrus messag 2anyl who seeks 2 cum 2 Him
11 wer hid,completly hemles & fear 4livs & womn wer at centary

lern that all not lost
(I'us Geo & Hosie & Geo cum 2 ch)

Mav notR propr hymn 4Eastr Sun,but G givs prom that all Blievers
who dy in Xp R aliv w/Him

27

But wen womn tol discipis wat seen & hpn,Ik expl vs 11

Thez men wer so in shok wat takn plac,seem impossibl anyth gud
or worthwhil cud cum out o/ deth of Js

vs 12=Gus ol impet Petr

we no tol whether Petr cam bak & convinc othrs Js aliv,but as
chm unfol read Js appear 2them that note & they Bliev

wo. Luk wrot tel of womn at tomb wer prob sam words cud hav
writ bout discipis & sed-& they rembr His words"

And wat wer thoz words?

They wer words of all wud hpn 2Him & proms He made 2them
Certinly sum thoz words wer thoz He spok 2tner in Uppr room folo
las meal w/ther

In record inciden so vividly in 14th chap Gospel,

Discipis now remembr thoz words=in 14:2-3

Js had bin tel them altho had no hom on erth,had hom in glory
w/Him beuz they Blonr 2 Him

(I'us of a Graham story & grandfathr writ=Cum Home)

Sun day a loving hand wilk plac on our shoudrs & th brief messag
wilR givn=Cum Home

But in ord 2cum hom mus know way

Js furthr sed=I Am th/wav, th/truth/& th/lif:no man cumth 2th
Fathr but by Me

wat He ment was that in ord 2 Come 2 that hvnly Hom it musR
thru Him as I & Sav of th/individs lif

(I'us lost nov & tel polic=Ask me 2 th/cross on th/hillside)
That cros on th/hillside was plac ther 4 ea us by a luv Fathr

Altho th/intent of man was 2put dwn G, they didnt succeed
Js Xp is alive!

And He extend th/invitatin 2 Come Home thru His shed blud

Th/Fastr messag always has bin & always wilR=Xp is Aliv,Cum Home

"Come Home"

Scripture: Luke 24:1-9

~~xxxxxxxRomanPlinyxxx~~

In the first century A.D. it was the Roman Pliny who coined the phrase, "Home is where the heart is." ~~xxxxxxx~~ A home is many things to many people. A shack may seem like an unfit dwelling for a person of means, but to the occupant of that house, it is home.

But we probably receive our best perspectives of what a home is from little children.

(Illustration of little girl not being able to stand up in class for taking a bath)

Then there is the account of two eight-year-old boys talking about the problems they had with their parents.

(Illustration of these two boys learning to walk, talk, & sit down and shut up).

Another little girl ~~xxxxxx~~ whose father had been transferred all over the place had lived in many parts of the world. Someone speaking to her about this one day said to her, "It's too bad you don't have a home like everyone else." The girl answered, "Oh we have a home, but we just don't have a house to put it in." This was similar to the situation which the disciples of Jesus found themselves in. For the entire length of Jesus' earthly ministry they had traveled with Him from place to place. They actually didn't have a permanent residence. Perhaps the closest thing to a permanent residence was the house in Bethany which belonged to their friends Lazarus, and Mary and Martha. They had just been there the previous week just prior to their arrival in Jerusalem. That week had started out with a grand welcome in Jerusalem of their Master Jesus. For them that was a glorious time and it must have seemed that Jesus was at last receiving the acclaim He deserved.

But then as the week progressed, Jesus told them many things which at the time seemed very strange to them. He taught them about things that He said would happen in the far distant future and He told them of things which were going to happen to Him and they were sad.

But they didn't completely understand what He was saying because they couldn't believe that anyone would actually seek to have Him put to death. But they certainly understood it when He was arrested after they had shared that last meal with them.

They fled in fear for their very lives and during this brief exile they were made aware once again that they didn't have a permanent home. So in all probability they stayed at the homes of friends, hiding from the religious authorities in fear for their own safety.

It was while they were in hiding that word came to them that Jesus had been put to death and buried in a garden tomb. As far as they were concerned their dreams were shattered and those years they had been with Him were over. There was no kingdom of which they were to be a part of. They felt like hunted criminals and had given up all to follow what must have seemed like an idle dream.

So while these 11 disciples hid from the authorities, Luke tells us that other believers came out of hiding with a special mission in mind. In the 1st verse of the 24th chapter we are told, (Read verse 1). The first day of the week was Sunday and it was at the breaking of dawn, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ that they came to the tomb to finish the proper preparations for Jesus' burial. But when they arrived they discovered the stone had been rolled away

from the entrance and we read, "And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." Naturally, they expected the stone to be in place at the entrance of the tomb, and when it was not, they went in to investigate further, but discovered also that the body was not there either. Now here was a mystery. They probably questioned among themselves just what all of this meant. And Luke tells us, "And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout." verse 4A.

In all probability we would probably have described this ~~xx~~ in much stronger terms. The word that Luke uses here ~~ixxi~~ for perplexity is the Greek word that means they were absolutely non-plussed. They were unable to go on, to speak, they were simply at a loss in all of this. Luke then adds, "Behold, two men stood by them in shining garments." Recognizing^g that they were in the presence of ~~xxxxxxxx~~ angels, since ordinary humans didn't have or wear shining garments, we are told, "And as they were afraid, and bowed their faces to the earth, they said unto them, 'Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how He spake unto you while He was yet in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" verses 5-7.

It is then that all that had transpired over the 3 year period in which they had been with Him fell into place. And Luke tells us simply, "And they remembered His Words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven and to all the rest," verses 8 and 9.

Who were these people who had first been told the good news that Jesus had arisen? Luke tells us simply in the 10th verse, (read this verse). In a society in which women were considered as second-class citizens, this is ~~xxxxxx~~ an example of how God entrusts His message to anyone who seeks to come to Him. The eleven were in hiding, completely homeless and fearing for their lives. And the women were at the cemetery learning that all was not lost. (Illustration of George and Rosie and George coming to church)

That may not be the proper hymn to sing on Easter Sunday, but God gives the promise that all believers who die in Christ are alive with Him.

But when the women told the disciples what they had seen and what happened, Luke explains "And their words seemed as idle tales, and they believed them not," verse 11. These men were so in shock over what had taken place it seemed impossible that anything good or worthwhile could come out of this death of Jesus. Then it was that Luke tells us that good old impetuous Peter ran to see for himself, (read verse 12). We are not told that Peter came back and convinced the others that Jesus was alive, but as this chapter unfolds we read that Jesus appeared to them that night and they believed.

The words that Luke wrote telling of the women at the tomb were probably the same words he could have written about the disciples and said, "And they remembered His words." And what were those words? They were the words of all that would happen to Him and the promises He had made to them. Certainly some of those words were those which He spoke to them in the Upper Room following His last meal with them. John recorded that incident so vividly for us in the 14th chapter of his Gospel, but it was the disciples who had been told that and who now remembered that Jesus had said, "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there you may be also."

Jesus had been telling them that although they may not have a place on earth to call home, because they belonged to Him, they had an eternal home in glory with Him.

(Illustration of Billy Graham story and Grandfather writing, "Come Home")

Some day a loving hand will be placed on our shoulders and the brief message will be given, "Come Home."

But in order to "Come Home" we must know the way. Jesus ~~for~~ further said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by Me."

What He meant was that in order to "Come" to that heavenly Home, it must be through Him as Lord and Savior of the individual's life.

(Illustration of lost boy and telling police, "Take me to the cross on the hillside")

That cross on the hillside was placed there for each of us by a loving Father. Although the intent of man was to put down God, they didn't succeed. Jesus Christ is alive! And He extends the invitation to "Come Home," through His shed blood. The Easter message always has been and always will be, "Christ is alive, Come Home!"

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 10, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Meron Hewis

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 6 "This is My Father's World"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (Unison) Almighty God, who brought again
from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, help us in the
days of our flesh to minister like Him. Keep our
tempers calm; make us brave to fight for the right
and to stand firm against those who would oppress
the weak. Give us grace to know Him as our living
Lord, and strength to follow in His footsteps; in
His name we pray. Amen.

*Kyrle

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Sermon with Bob

Hymn No. 432 "Gently and Tenderly"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory by Youth Orchestra

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Arky, Arky" and "If You're Saved" - Youth Choir

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1: 1-3

Sermon: "Plan A"

*Invitational Hymn No. 295 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mrs. Emogene Massey in memory of her Mother.

Mr. Jimmy McClymonds will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Sandy Sheppeck, Erla Hollefreund,
Isabel Eichhorn, and Helen Crouse.

Attendance last Sunday was 177 with 40 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Karen Link.

Ben Vensel and Herb Shearer will be visiting the hospital
this week.

> Hospitalized: Charlie Penar in BMH

> MONDAY - VBS meeting at 7:00 P.M. This is for all helpers
and teachers. Please plan to attend!

- Sunday School Teachers meeting at 8:00 P.M. We
need ALL teachers to attend this.

> TUESDAY - Leadership Training classes at 7:00 P.M. This
is an opportunity for those who were nominated
for Elder or Deacon to receive their training.

> CAUGHT - the movie will be shown at the Plaza Theatre
beginning April 29 through May 5th. The tickets
are now available in the office at a cost of
\$3.00 per person. Tickets at the door will be
\$2.50 for children and \$4.00 per adult. Stop
now and pick up your tickets, and plan to attend.

Another Billy Graham movie will be shown here at the
church May 15th. This movie entitled "Cry From The
Mountain" has been shown in the area before, but this
is open to the public. Share this information with your
friends and invite them to come "to the movie."

> BIBLE STUDY is now resuming after the holiday on Sunday
evening at 7:00 P.M. Come join us!

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed
by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for
reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations
you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to
pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself
of this opportunity.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
OF SAGAMORE**

WELCOMES YOU..
APRIL 19, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

****HYMN-----More About Jesus-----#477**

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

****DOXOLOGY**

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN---Since Jesus Came Into My Heart---#639

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3

SERMON: "Plan A"

****HYMN-----Oh That Will Be Glory-----#132**

****BENEDICTION**

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

**** Please stand**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
OF THE WEEK.....**

* We would like to thank all who participated any way in the play. The YOUTH especially, they did a wonderful job. We hope this is not the end! L

* Please—if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birthdates to JoAnn or Joyce.

* **TODAY: CHURCH BOWLING PARTY:** Punxsutawney Bowling Alley April 19, 1998 - 2-4pm - Pizza Party

* **April 19, 1998:** Youth Group 6-8pm. Bring Bibles.

* John & Jennifer Lingenfeiter would like to thank everyone for their prayers and those who attended the baby Shower. The BABY is doing fine and is home.

* **April 26, 1998:** Fellowship Dinner - After Church. Please plan to attend. Everyone is to bring a covered dish.

* **April 26, 1998:** Hymn Sing - 2 - 4 pm. Plan to bring your singing voice and or instrument with you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

April 13-----Ronald Stiffler

April 17-----Brian Bailey

April 22-----Twila Calhoun

April 24-----Laird Calhoun

April 28-----Steven Leydic

PAUL
MARRIAGES
TODAY'S VISITORS
ABBY FAMILY
BENJAMIN

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

Dear Father,
Every now and then, without warning,
each of us has a good day;
Please, Lord, it's my
turn today,
isn't it?

SCRIP: ECC 1:1-5; SERMON: "FIAT A"

IF U WER ASK "WAT IS WISDM?" - WAT WUD U SAY?
 (ILUS LITTLE GTEL & CHOICE OF MNEY AT AUNT'S HOUSE)
 WER. DICT DEFINE WISDM="TH/POWR OF JUDGING RITELY"

IN OLD TESTAMENT THER ARE 3 BUKSCLASFY AS "WISDM LITERATUR"
 CAN U NAME THEM????
 10. 1ST VERBS. ECCLESIASTES
 AT F. 1ST CUDR CLASFY AS BGIN W/PATIENCE, WISDM, THEN DESPAIR
 BUT NOT QUITE THRU PICTUR WAT BUKS PAINT
 NEX SEVRAL WKS WIL LK AT ECCLES & TRY DISCOVER THRU PICTUR AUTHOR
 TRY 2GIV
 BUK REFLECTIN ON EXPR OF LIF AS SEEN BY AUTHOR FR/HIS PERSPECT

SUMONE LK AT LIF & SED=LIF IS JUS BOWL OF CHERRYS
 FEW YRS AGO SUMONE WROTE SONG 2THAT EFFECT
 BUT IF LIF IS SUPOS 2B A BOWL OF CHERRYS, MANY PEO IT IS MERLY
 TH/PTTS

LIF GIVS MANY, MANY QUESTS MAY REMAIN UNANSWRBL THRUOUT LIFE
 (ILUS LOUIS GOLDBERG, PROF THRO MOODY BIBL INST & QUESTS OF GOD)

DEUT 17:16-17 3/

DAV FATHR OF SOL FOLG ADVIC FR/GOD, BUT NOT COMPLETELY
 BUT DID BETTR JCB THAN HIS SON
 DAV HAD MOR THAN ONE WIF, BUT NOT ON GRND SCAL LIK SOL
 WE R TOL SOL HAD 700 WIFS & 300 CONCUBINES
 (BT WAS GILTIEN 4PUNISHMENT - 1000 MCHR-IN-LAWS, LFRND MEANING
 OF 1ST D - "NAG")

WE READ IN SCRIP WEN DAV CAPTURD HORSES HE CUT TENDNS THOZ HORSES
 SO CUDNT R USED IN BATTL
 HE REFUSD 2BILD A CHARICT BASED MILTRY ESTABLISHMENT
 HE DIDNT GRILY INCREASE SILVR/GOLD IN KINGDM ON GRAND SCALE
 BUT SOL DID ALL OF THEE THINGS CONTRARY 2WAT GOD WANTED
 SOL SPFM 2BLIEV FOREING WIFS WUDNT TURN HIM FR/GOD
 HE SEEMD 2BLIEV GET STABL OF HORSES/CHARICTS MADE HIM EXTREME
 A POWERFUL KING
 SPEND 2BLIEV DISPLAY VAST QUANTYS GOLD/SILVR SET HIM APART
 AT TH/MOST POWERFUL KING AS WELL
 ONE THING SOL DID, & THAT WAS 2LEAN ON HIS WISDOM
 BUT AFTR ALL WASNT IT A GIFT THAT GOD GAV HIM?
 AND SHUDNT HE USE IT EVN IF IT COMPLICTD W/WAT GOD WANTED??
 BUT GOD WAS WISER THAN THIS MOS WISEST OF MEN
 WAT GOD SED WUD HAPTN DID & WE LERN OF THIS FROM 1 Kings 11
 THEN WE READ IN VSS 1-8 - (READ THEY)

TH/ONE THING THIS BUK IS VANITY, OR MEANINGLESSNESS OF LIF
 AUTHOR USES WORD VANITY 33 TIMES & PLURAL OF IT 4TIMES THROUT
 IT WUD SEEM THUS THAT BUK XXXXXXXX IS NUTHIN BUT BUK OF DESPAIR
 BUT NOT QUITE THUS & IN FAC GIVE SUM POSITV IDEAS 2LIF & IN
 ORD 2DISCOVER THAT WIL HAV 2GIG IN BUK 2FIND IT
 BUT I BLIEV SERCH WILB WEL WORTH IT
 OF NECESSRY CANT DRAW OUT EA & EVRY VS, SO WIL SKIM PARTS OF IT
 I SUGEST IN ORD 2UNDERST BUK BETTR, U READ THRU SEVRAL TIMES
 PERHAPS ONCE A WK AS WE GO THRU IT
 FA WK WIL TRY 2GIV U SUM HOMEWORK 2PREP 4THE NEXT WEEK
 NEX WK WIL COVER FR/VSS 4 OF CHAP 1, THRU 2ND CHAP - SUGES U REAL
 VS 1-K SOL WRIT PROV, ECCLES & SONG OF SOL
 EA WRITIN DIF TIME OF LIF
 S OF SOL=WHIL STIL IN FERVOR OF HIS FIRST LAV FOR GOD
 PROV=WRITIN LITL LATR DEPIC WISDM GIV AS GIFT FR/GOD
 ECCLES=WRIT OLD AGE & ACTULY GAV TESTMONY HIS REPENTANC
 OF HIS APOSTACY
 SOLS DEFECTIN FR/GOD HAD ADVERS EFFECT ON HIM
 HE FND HE CUT OFF FR/GOD, BUT THIS WAS HIS OWN CHOICE
 HE LEF W/ONLY WISDM 2GUID HIM & HE SEEK FIND LIF MEANING APART
 FR/GOD

WHIL STIL IN FELLOSHIP W/GOD, HE CUD WRITE: 2/

TH/FEAR OF TH/LORD IS TH/BGINING OF WISDOM
 BUT NOW YRS LATR HIS THINK WAS DIF
 HE TRY 2REASN TH/MEAN OF LIF WITH TH/DATA AVAIL W/IN THE
 PHYSICAL UNIVRS
 SO HE WRITEVERSE 2 - (READ THIS)

HE SAY=MEANINGLESS, MEANINGLESS, EVRYTHING IS MEANINGLESS
 LIF HAD TAKN ON ASPECT OF MEANINGLESSNES
 4THM HE CUD C NO HOPE, NO LIFE AT END OF TH/TUNNELL
 SO ASK TH/QUESTVERSE 3 - (READ THIS)
 HE ASK AGE OLD QUEST="WAT IS MEANING, OR TH/PURPOS OF LIFE?"
 "IS IT JUS 2SLAV & WORK 4 A LIFETIME?"
 "WAT IS TH/RTVANTAG OF THAT?"
 NOW 2UNDERST WAT SOL IS ASK & HOW HE CUM 2THIS PT IN HIS THINK
 WE NED 2UNDERST HOW HE GOT 2THIS PT OF MEANINGLESSNES
 GOD HAD TOLD PRO OF ISR. WEN BCUM SETTLE IN PROMIS LAND THEY WUD
 DEMAND A KING
 IN BUK DEUT HE SPEL THIS OUT IN 17TH CHAPTR - (TURN TO THIS)

VSS 1-8- THEN FOREIGN WIVS TURN'D HIM FR/GOD

4/

THEN WE READ

VSS 9-13-G HAD TOL ISRAEL WAT WUD HAPPN IF KINGS TURN'D FR/HIM

K SOL SEEM 2THINK HE ABUV WISDM OF GOD

SO HE USE HIS WISDM, HIS HUMANTY & WEN LIF LAY RNE HIM IN SHAM-
BLES W/HEE IN HANES CRY OUT-MEANINGLES/MEANINGLES/MEANINGLES,
RTH IS MEANINGLES

LIF NO DIF 2DAY

MUCH OF WCPL & MANY OF WORLD'S PEO HAV SO" 2DO OWN THING & WEN
LIF IS SHAMBLES CRY OUT-WAT TH/MEANING TO LIFE???

WE LIV IN AGE OF MATERIALISM

2R SUMTHIN, OF SUMBODY U NEED ALL THEMWORDLY THINGS- CARS,BOATS,

COMPUTRS,FAX,E MAIL, ON & ON & ON

(ILUS RICH MAN & PLAN 2TAK IT W/HIM - PREACHR,DOCTOR,LAWYR)

(ILUS REBELIUS SENIOR,& TALK W/TEACHER)

WE HAV TH/ANSR DEEP DWN INSID OF US

BUT QUESTIN IS : "DO WE WANT IT?"

DO WE WANT TH/ANSR 4ALL OF LIF AS GOD GIVS IT???

IN ALL HIS SERCHING SOL FINLY FND ANSR & SO MUST WE
GOD WANT U 2KNO HIM & THAT IS WHY HE HAS PROVIDED JS XP

IF U R SERCHING LET THAT SERCH FND 2DAY

CHRIST IS TH/ANSR,ACCEP HIS INVITATIN 2CUM UNTO HIM

Louis Goldberg, prof of Theo at Moody Bibl Inst
writes:

Why duz G if He exists,permit catastrophs 2happn
such as kil of peo in war or thru naturl disaters
why do as many as 100M dy in an erthquake?

Why do peo fall ill?

Wt ? children inflict w/incurbl diseas & dy B4
th , evn hav an optanty 2liv sumth of wat this
lif hav 2offer?

& then he adds:

Evn tho in l sers it may" big questin, mos peo
try 2extrac sum joy & pleasur fr/this lif w/ther
famlys in travling,& in pursuin wat passes 4
delite in this world

Vanity - 4 times

meaningless

WEISTER - WISDOM IS TH/POWER OF JUDGING
RIGHTLY

"Plan A"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3
 "If I ask: What is wisdom? What will I say?
 (Plus I ask: What is wisdom? What will I say?)
 I must defin wisdom anoth power 2nd of judg rltly
 in Oth ther 2 books classfy as wisdom books, or wisdom literature
 can I nam them? - In cas I struiz: Job, Prov, & Eccles
 1st place canR classfy as start w/patience, end w/despair
 but that not tru pictur wat books paint
 In nev sevr wk we R go 2 bk at Eccl & try discover tru pictur
 authr seek 2giv
 buk is reflectin on exper of lif as seen fr/his perspectiv
 Suml who was lk lif fr/rosv stant say lif is jus howl of chervs
 In fac, suml wrot some few yrs bak 2that efec
 But if lif is super JB howl of chervs, many peo it is PITS
 Lif give us many, many quest unansrd thruout all of lif
 (Plus Louis Goldberg, Prof Moody, & guests bout God)
 Th/one themmos pikin th s buk is theme of vanity, or th/meaningless
 of lif
 author use word 34 times & th plural of it 4 times in buk
 it wud seem this buk nothin but despair, but not quite tru
 In fac, it giv our positiv idea 2lif & in order 2discover that, we
 will dig in th/buk 2find it
 But I believ serch will prov 2B wel worth it
 I wud suges in order undrat buk, read it thru sevr times, perhap
 lnce a wk as we go thru it
 We cannot Reuz of time factor go vs by vs, so will skim sumwat
 I will try ea wk 2giv 2 hr homework & nex wk will covr fr vs 4 of
 1st chap thru entir 2nd chaptr
 vs 1-thus how authr Bgin
 we identify this man as Sol, son of David, K of Israel
 He wrot Prov, Ecc, & 2 of Sol, but ea at dif times of lif
 S of Sol writ wen Sol stil in fever of 1st luv 4 God
 P / writ littl lstr depic wisdom giv as gif fr/G
 Ecc wrot in late ol age & actuly gav testimony of his repentenc
 of his apostasy
 Sols defectin fr/G had an advers efec on him
 he fnd he cutoff fr/G, but was by his own choic
 he was lef w/only wisdom 2guid him & he was seek 2find lifes
 meaning apart fr/G
 Whil Sol in feloshin w/G he cud writ-Th/fear of thl is th/Bgin
 of wisdom
 But now yrs later, thing wer dif, & his think was dif
 he try reasn out mean of lif w/data availbl w/in phys univers
 So he writs 2& he sav-meaningless, meaningless, evrth meanles
 lif had tken on th/arnec of meaninglessness & 4him ther no hope
 he cud Cnthe no lite at end of tunnel & he ask-Vs 3
 this are ol quest-wat is mean or purpos of lif?
 Is it 2jus work/slav 4 a lifetime & that is it?
 Wat advantag is that?

2/

Undrat wat Sol ask & how cum 2this pt in his think, we mus
 undrat how he got 2this pt of meaninglessness
 G had tol peo Is wen scam setl in ther Promis land they wud
 deman a KING
 In buk 12:16-17 this spel out-(read vs)
 Dav, fathr of Sol folo this advie fr/G but not completly
 he did nettr job than son
 Dav had mor than one wif, but not on grand scal of Sol
 2C how Sol discove we need lk 1 Ki chap 11
 vs 1-2 tel us bout thez wivs & how turn him fr/folo G & worsch
 idle
 but he also tuk vast amt horses
 Dav wen captur horses, cut tendons so cud noR use as war horses
 " no intrest in bld chariot army,
 but Sol do Jus oposit
 Dav no increas silver/gold on grand scal
 but Sol did
 It seem as tho Sol believ foreign wivs wudnt turn him fr G
 " " " " " " horses wud mak him powful king
 " " " " " " silver & gold wud no corrupt him
 & so Sol lean on his wisdom, aftr all wasnt this G's gift?
 & shudnt he use it evn if it conflic w/wat G wantd?
 But G was & is much wiser than wisest of men
 Wat G had sed wud happ, did happ & we read in 1 Ki 11:9-13
 G had tol Is wat wud happ if kings turn fr/Him
 K Sol seem 2think he abuv wisdom of G, so he use wisdom, his human-
 ity & wen lif lay rnd him in complet shambles, w/his hed in his
 hands he cum 2conclusin=meaninglessness, meaningles, everthing is
 meaninles
 Lif is no dif 2day, much of worl & many of worls peo hav sot 2do
 ther own thing & wen lif is in shambles they cry out-Wats th
 matter w/lif? Wats th/anser 2lif?
 (I high school girl hippy & ansr she no want)
 we hav ansr deep dwn insid us
 but quest is-Do we want it?
 Do we want th/anser 2all of lif as G give it?
 In all his serch Sol finlv fnd th/anser & so mus we
 It is involv in Plan A
 G provide that ansr in Js Xp
 If I R serch, let that serch end 2day
 Xp id th/anser, acpt His invitatin 2 cum un2 Him

"Plan A"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3

If you were asked, "What is wisdom?", what would you say?

(Illustration of little girl & choice of money)

A little girl was visiting her aunt. The aunt decided to give her some money, but she wanted to give her, a choice. So she placed a quarter on the table, with a dollar bill next to it. Then she said, "Honey, you take your pick." The little girl looked at the money, then she said, "Mother always tells me to take the smallest thing, so I don't make a piggy out of myself. So I'll just take this coin, and I'll take this piece of green paper to wrap it in so it doesn't get dirty."

Webster's Dictionary defines wisdom as, "The power of judging rightly. In the Old Testament there are three books that are classified as Wisdom Literature. Can you name them?

In case you may be struggling, they are Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. At first glance they can be classified as starting with patience and ending in despair. But that isn't a true picture of what the books paint.

In the next several weeks we are going to look at the book of Ecclesiastes and try to discover the true picture the author is seeking to give. The book is a reflection on the experiences of life as seen by the author from his perspective. Someone who was looking at life perhaps from a very rosy standpoint has said, "Life is just a bowl of cherries." In fact someone wrote a song of a few years back to that effect. But if life is supposed to be a bowl of cherries, for many, many people it is merely the pits. Life gives to us many, many questions that may remain unanswerable throughout all of life. Louis Goldberg a professor of Theology at Moody Bible Institute writes:

Why does God if He exists, permit catastrophes to happen such as the killing of people in war or through natural disasters?
Why do as many as 100,000 die in an earthquake?
Why do people fall ill?
Why are children inflicted with incurable diseases and die before they even have an opportunity to live something of what this life has to offer?
Is there really any meaning to life?

And then he adds:

Even though in one sense it may be a big question, most people try to extract some joy and pleasure from this life with their families in traveling, and in pursuing what passes for delight in this world.

The one theme that is most often picked up on this book is the theme of "Vanity" or "meaninglessness," of life. The author uses the word 33 times and the plural of it 4 times throughout the book. It would seem from this that the book is nothing but a book filled with despair. But that is not quite true. In fact, it gives some positive ideas to life and in order to discover that we will have to dig in the book to find it. But I believe the search will prove to be well worth it. Of necessity, we cannot draw out each and every verse, so we will be skimming through it. I would suggest that in order to understand ~~ix~~ the book better, you read it through several times, perhaps once a week as we go through it. I'll try to remember to give you your homework each week. For next week we will cover from verse 4 of the 1st chapter, through the 2nd chapter.

The author begins by saying, "The words of the preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem," verse 1.

King Solomon wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon, but each was written at a different time in his life. Song of Solomon was written when Solomon was still in the fervor of his first love for God. Proverbs was written a little later depicting the wisdom given to him as a gift from God. Ecclesiastes was written in late old age and actually gave a testimony of his repentance of his apostasy. Solomon's defection from God had an adverse effect on him. He found that he was cut off from God, but this was by his own choice. He was left with only his wisdom to guide him and he was seeking to find life's meaning apart from God.

While Solomon was in fellowship with God he could write, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

But now years later his thinking was different. He was trying to reason out the meaning of life with the data available within the physical universe. So it is that he writes, "Vanity of vanities," says the preacher, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity," verse 2.

He is saying, "meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless." Life had taken on the aspect of meaninglessness. For him at this point he could see no hope, no light at the end of the tunnel. And so he asks the question, "What advantage does man have in all his work which he does under the sun?" verse 3.

He is asking the age old question, "What is the meaning, or the purpose of life? Is it to just work and slave for a lifetime? What is the advantage of that?"

To understand what Solomon is asking and how he has come to this point in his thinking we need to understand how he got ~~here~~ to this point of meaninglessness.

God had told the people of Israel that when they became settled in their "Promised Land," they would demand a king. He tells them of this in the book of Deuteronomy. In the 17th chapter this is spelled out. So it is that we read in the 16th and 17th verses, (read these) David, the father of Solomon followed this advice from God, but not completely. But he did a better job of it than did his son. David did have more than one wife, but not on the grand scale of Solomon. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines we are told.

When David captured horses he cut the tendons of those horses so they could not be used in battle and he refused to build a chariot based military establishment. David did not greatly increase silver and gold in the kingdom on a grand scale. But Solomon did all of these things contrary to what God wanted. Solomon seemed to believe that the foreign wives would not turn him from God. He seemed to believe that the great stables of horses and the chariots made him a powerful king. And he seemed to believe that the display of vast quantities of silver and gold set him apart as the most powerful king. Solomon leaned on his wisdom. After all, wasn't his wisdom God's gift? And shouldn't he use it, even if it conflicted with what God wanted? But God was much wiser than this wisest of men. What God had said would happen did and we read of this in 1st Kings the 11th chapter, (read verses 1-8).

It is then that we read in the 9th through the 13th verses, (read these).

God had told Israel what would happen if the kings turned from Him. King Solomon seemed to think that he was above the wisdom of God. So he used his wisdom, his humanity and when life lay around him in a complete shambles, with his head in his hands he called out "Meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless."

Life is no different today. Much of the world and many of the world's people have sought to do their own thing and when all of life is a shambles they cry out, "What's the answer to life?"

(Illustration of high school girl "hippie" and the answer she didn't want)

A young high school teacher who was very popular with his students told of a conversation he had with one of the senior girls in the school. She said that she had become a "Hippie." She was in rebellion against the school, against her parents, and against the church. Her parents had given her everything except love. The church was a meaningless institution with nothing to say to real life. She was in rebellion against Christians because she said they were hypocrites.

But after talking to the teacher for over an hour she finally said, "Down deep in side I know that Jesus Christ has the answer to my life." And then half-defiantly, and half-wistfully she said, "But I just don't want that answer for my life."

We have the answer deep down inside of us. But the question is, "Do we want it?" "Do we want the answer to all of life as God gives it? In all of his searching, Solomon finally found the answer and so must we. God wants you to know Him and that is why He has provided Jesus Christ. If you are searching, let that search end today. Christ is the answer, accept His invitation to come unto Him.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 17, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Raymond Gamble and Robin Kaiser

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
Prelude "O For a Closer Walk With God"
"Alleluia! Sing To Jesus"

Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 98 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*Ascription
*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) We offer you our thanks O God, for
the rising of our Lord. But we also know we must come
to you in confession. We confess to you our unwillingness
at times to follow our Lord. We confess as well our
willingness to sin even when we know we shouldn't.
Forgive us Lord, cleanse us, and renew us, for we pray
in His name. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 56 "God Will Take Care of You"

*Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy Spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "Majesty"

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Reach Out To Jesus"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1: 12-18

Sermon: "Plan A: The Search"

*Invitational Hymn No. 96 "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"

*Congregational Greeting *****

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mr. & Mrs. George Pflugh in memory of their daughter
Pam.

Mr. & Mrs. Rob Vinroe will greet our members and guests at
the door this morning.

Ushers serving today will be members of the Youth Group.
Attendance last Sunday was 140 with 19 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Glenda Penar.

Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital
this week.

>Hospitalized: Mary Sherman in BMH.

>TUESDAY - Leadership Training class will be held at 7:00
This is an opportunity for those who were nomina-
ted for Elder or Deacon to receive their training.
Also for anyone interested in the training.

>"CAUGHT" a movie produced by the Billy Graham organization
is coming to Butler at the Plaza Theatre beginning April
29th through May 5th. Tickets are now available in the
office at a price of \$3.00 each. Tickets at the door
will be \$4.00 per adult and \$2.50 for children. Hope
you are planning to attend.

"Cry From the Mountain", another Billy Graham movie will
be shown here at the church on May 15th. This movie
is open to the public, so bring a friend or two.

>BIBLE STUDY will be held on Sunday evening at 7:00 P.M.

Come join us for a more thorough study of God's word.

CRIME WATCH neighborhood meeting will be held in Rehoboth
Hall on April 26th from 7 to 9 P.M. This is for anyone
interested in such a program.

Following the sermon we sing an invitation hymn, followed
by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for
reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations
you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to
pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself
of this opportunity.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
OF SAGAMORE
WELCOMES YOU..
APRIL 26, 1998**

PASTOR RALPH LINK WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

****HYMN---**Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine--- # 67

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

****DOXOLOGY**

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----At The Cross-----# 95

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

SERMON: "Plan A: The Search"

****HYMN-----**Through It All-----# 43

****BENEDICTION**

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US

**** Please stand**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
OF THE WEEK.....**

* We hope everyone had a nice time at the Bowling Party last Sunday. We'd like to thank the CHURCH for such a nice time.

* Please--if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birthdates to JoAnn or Joyce.

* **April 26, 1998:** Fellowship Dinner - After Church. Please plan to attend. Everyone is to bring a covered dish.

* **April 26, 1998 :** Hymn Sing - 2 - 4 pm. *WELCOME DITH OR NOT*
Plan to bring your singing voice and or instrument with you.

* **May 3, 1998 :** Youth Group 6-8 pm. Please plan to attend we are doing something special.

* **May 9, 1998 :** Lasagna Dinner 4 - 7 pm

BOB KARNER - THANK FLOWERS & DONATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

April 26-----Josh Leydic

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

Making the decision to have a child
is momentous -
it is to decide forever to have
your heart go walking around
outside your body.

Elizabeth Stone

GERT - TO PLEASE

L. ALAN

DAVE

CELESTINE - JANE

VSS 15-18=TIKS OFF MEANINGLESSNES
OF LIF BY REASONING
HE CUMS 20CNCCL MOR KNOWLEDG PEREN HAS
TH/MOR HE CANT UNDERST MEAN OF LIFE
SO SOL THEN BOAN LOGICLY TEST THINGS
OF LIFE SPECIFCLY WUD BRNG PLEASUR
2: PLEASUR/ENJOYMENT=USELESS
VS 3=LAFTER, DIDNT WORK EITHER
VS 3A=WINE, THAT DIDNT SATISFY
VSS 4-6=NONE OF THEZ BROT HAPINES
VS 7=INCREAS SLAVS/CATTL DIDNT BRNG
HAPINES EITHER
VS 8=MONEY/RICHES/ENTERTAINMENT & THIS
DIDNT HELP
VSS 9-11=ALL THIS TURND OUT 2B FUTILITY
FOR HIM
VSS 12-15=BOTH RICH/POOR,WISE/FOOLISH
HAV SAME END & SOL LAMENTS.....
VSS 17-20=THOTR ABOUT LIF/WORK
VS 21=LEAV TESTAT PHIRIS & HOW HANDL IT
SO SOL ASK "WAT'S THE USE?"
HE CUMS 2ELACE WHER SAYS
VS 24=LIV IT UP CUDB INTERP
VS 24B=G IN CONTROL IF
VS 25=WHO CAN HAV ANYTH APART FR/GOD???
APART FR/G THERE NO PLEASUR IN LIF,&
THER NO ENJOY WAT WE HAV,& THER NO
PRST EXCEPT PEREN RECOG WE GFT WAT GFT
W/BLES OF GOD & IF STRIV DO IT APART
FR/HIM LIF MEANINGLESS, OR VANITY
VS 26=G LFT SOL SRCH 4NSRS IN HIS OWN
SOL MAK COMPT BLIEVR/UNBLIEVR & THIS
J'PT OUT HIS ERTHLI MINSTRY
P. 43= (TURN TO THIS)

1 KING 3

VS 3=TOI SOL WENT TO GIBSEN 2SAC AT WAT CAL "TH/GRT HI PLACE"
AT THIS TIME IT NO SIN BOW TEMPI NOT YET BILT
READING ON WE R TOLD VSS 4-10
GOD GRANTED HIS DESIR PHAV wisdom
GOD GRANTS HIM 2OTHR THINGS VSS 11-15 - (READ)
SOL AMAS MOR THAN A FORTUN IN HIS LIFETIME
HE WAS ALWAYS ADD 2HIS TREASURY & 2HIS STABLES
HE WAS TH/WELTHIRST MONARCH WHO EUP LIVD UP 2THAT TIME
BUT AS LIF EGAN 2PASS HIM BY, & HE GREW 2B AN OLD MAN, HE
DISCOVERD WEALTH DIDNT BRNG HAPNES W/IT
IN FAC, IT BROT TH/CONCERN & CARE & WORRY OF HOW 2HOLD ON 2IT
SO HE WAS SRCH 4NSRS 2LIF, & IN OUR SCRIP THIS MORN WE R
READING OF "HIS SEARCH"
SOL HAD PROTESTD TH/FUTILITY OF MANY THINGS IN LIF & SO NOW HE
STATES
ECC 2:12 - (READ THIS)

MT 13:

JS HAD BROKN 2LRG MULTITUDES IN PARABLE
DISCIP GUM TO HIM & WE READ VS 10
THEY QUESTIN VALIDITY OF THIS MANNER OF TEACHING
VS 11=JS SAY DISCIP R BLIEVR & COMPLET REVELATIN IS W/HELD
FR/THCZ WHO R NOT TRU BLIEVR
VS 12=HERE IS TH/POINT SOL HAD REACHD MANY YEARS B4
OEVER HAS" - THIS REFERS TO BLIEVR
THOZ WHO HAV BIM GIVN TH/GIFT OF ETRNL LIF RECEIVD BY TRUST
IN JS XP AS SAVIOR
THEZ R TH/TRU CITIZENS OF TH/KINGDOM WHO HAV RECEIVD TH/KING
WHOEVR ACPTS SALV FR/GOD "TO HIM SHAL MOR B GIVN"
TH/PERSON WHO ACPTS WAT G HAS FOR HIM, "JS TH/LITE" MOR LITE
SHALB GIVN
GOD WIL ADD 2THAT PEREN HIS RICHES IN GLORY
ALL THAT TH/FATHR HAS BOUMS TH/POSESTIN OF HIS CHILDREN & JS SAYS,
"HE SHAL HAV MOR ABUNDANC"
BUT TH/FATE OF TH/UNBLIEVR IS JUST TH/OPOSITE
"EVEN WAT HE HAS SHALB TAKN AWAY FR/HIM"
HE IS TRY HOLD ON TO THINGS OF LIF & CANT DO IT
(ILUS T-SHIRTS ABOUT MOST TOYS - MAN STILL DIES)
(ILUS 2MEN & SAME AMT OF MONEY & END RESULTS - DEATH)
EVERTH OF THIS WORLDS GUDS, & ALL THAT TH/WORLD HAS TO OFFER
WIL SLIP FR/THE GRASP OF THOZ WHO SEEK TO HANG ON TO IT, & TO
HAV MORE & MORE =SOL DISCOVER THIS END CHAP 2
SEEK YE FIRST TH/KINGDOM OF GOD & HIS RITHNES - TODAY

Abraham Lincoln said:

Financial success is purely metallic. The man who gains it has 4 metallic attributes: gold is in his palm, silver is on his tongue, brass is in his face, and iron in his heart.

In 1924 the worlds most successful financiers met at Edge-ware Beach Hotel in Chicago. Collectively they twocons controlled more wealth than there was in the US treasury.

4 yrs the newspapers & magazines had been printing their success stories & urging youth of nation to follow their example. 20 yrs later, here is their history:

Charles Schwab-president of large steel Co.-lived on borrowed money thru his life & died penniless

Arthur Catten-president wheat speculator died abroad insolvent

Richard Whitney-president NY stock exchange was released from Sing Sing

Albert Fall-a member president's cabinet was pardoned from prison so he could die at home

James Livermore-president Bear on Wall Street committed suicide

Leon Fraser-president Bank of International Settlements-suicide

Ivar Krueger-Ruler of worlds greatest monopoly-suicide

SCHEP. BOO 1.12-10. 1.12-10. 1.12-10.

HOMERICK NEX KK=XXX CHAP 3 -READ BUK

(TIDE APPRATAM L'NCCOLN - FINANCIAL SUCCE

(TIDE SUCCE ACCORD WDEL STANDEE WEI29)

WDEL FAMUE MEN YESTERYE LEEN 2MAK MONY

BUT NO LEEN HOW 2LIV

12 OF THEM HAS EVRONE LEEN HOW???

NO,THEY TYPICAL OF HUMAN RACE

MAN HAS ALWAYS GOT THING 2MAK LIFE

EASIER & RICHER

(ILLUS LOTTERY & "GROWTH FOR NOTHING")

K SOL SUCED FATHER ON THRON & MAN LK

THIS

START IN COURT,ACUST 2GUD LIP 2B LIVI

AS PART OF ROYL FAMLY

IN 1 KINGS CHAP 3, WE READ OF INTEREST

BAKER OF BOLCHON'S LIFE

(TURN 1 KI 3, & EXPLAIN VSS 4-15)

VS 12-SOL NOW USE FIRST PERSON IN

IDENTIFY SELF

AT BEGIN SAY "THE PREACHER"

NOW IT IS "I, TH/PREACHER

SO HE SAYS VSS 13-17

HE SIMPLY SAY HE IS USE REASONING 2

DETERM WAT LIF ALL ABOUT

TH/REASON PROCES IS 2LK AT THINGS IN

LOGICAL SEQUENC OF EVENTS

IT IS TH/OLD 2 PLUS 2 EQUALS 4

(illus man win lottery by b smart/lucky)

SOL SEEK FIND ANSR USE LOGICL

REASON & CUM CONCLUSIN VS 14

conclusin=ALL IS MEANINGLESS & GRASP-

ING FOR TH/WIND

LIK TH/WIND, MUCH OF WAT DESIRBL IN LIP

CANOT B HELD IN ONE'S HAND

"Plan A: The Search"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:12-18
 Homework-Read Ecclesiastes chapter three
 (Ilus Abe Lincoln on "Financial Success")
 (Ilus of Success accord 2world standrd of wealth)
 Here wer worl famous men of vestryr who lern 2mak mony, but not 1
 had lerned how 2liv
 There is no isolat series of livs fr/pas & sinc then evrone has
 lern 2liv
 ther livs typicl of humn race
 Men sinc Bgin of tim bin involv in ques 2mak lif easier/richer
 Why do u supos stat lettrvs & flourish all ovr "SA"
 peo fr/all walka lif seek 2get sumth 4 nuth; 2gain instan suces
 & riches & 2liv on Easy Street
 K Sol succeed fathr Dav on thron, & he a man exactly lik this
 start out in cort of fathr, acustom 2gd lif as part rovl famly
 1 Ki 3:20 Sol go 2 Gibeon 2 sac on Hi Places=(expl no abom then)
 Aft templ bilt was abomnatn
 vas 4-15=Sol prant wisdm, but bonus as wel-riches/honor
 Sol amas fortun in lif tim & keep add 2 treasury, & stables
 he welthiest monarch evr liv up 2 that tim
 As pru old, lif pas by & discover welth no bring happes w/it
 in fac, it brot concern/care/worry how 2 hol on 2it
 so he serch 4ansrs 2lif & in Scrip read of his SEARCH
 Sol notes futility of lif & many things in it & now stat=VS 12
 now cum 2-1st persn in identfy self
 in chap 1, vs 1 say-th words of preachr, now say I preachr
 vs 14-he say he use reasning 2detrmin wat lif all bout
 reasn proces lk at thngs in logical sequenc of events
 it th/old system of 2 plus 2 equals four
 (Ilus of man win lottry by a smart & lucky)
 Sol seek 2find ansr by logical reasn ' cum conclusin-VS 14
 H ucks off meanlesnes of lif by reasn-VSS 15-18
 cum conclusin mor knowledg persn has, mor canct undret th/mean
 of lif
 So Sol Bgan logicyl test thing of lif that suposdly wud bring
 pleasur
 Vs 1-tried pleasur/enjoyment but was useless
 Vs 2-try lafftr but didnt work withr
 Vs 3-wine but that no satisfv
 Vss 4-6-nun this brot happes
 Vs 7-slavs, catl, increas holdings, but no happes either
 Vs 8-reach criches, & didnt help
 Vss 9-11-call pru v 20 Cutilv & him
 Vs 12-16-cum conclusin both rich/poor, wis/foolish hav sam end
 So Sol laments-Vss 17-20
 then he realiz-Vs 21
 man may mak fortun, lv 2 heirs, but how handl it?
 many times lewacy is squandr & los in period of tim & Sol sav,
 Wats Th/Use?

Sol cum 2plac wher he says-Vs 24A
 & this bring Sol 2 logicyl conclusin-Vs 24B
 It is fr/Hand of G, G in control of lif
 Vs 25-apart fr/G ther no pleasur in lif, ther no enjoy of wat hav
 ther no rest 4 persn excep he recogniz we get wat we get with
 t ling of G
 & if striv lif apart fr/Him lif meanles, it Vanity as Sol say
 Sol cum 2mos logicyl conclusin cud reach this tim
 Remembr, G let him serch 4ansrs on his own Bcoz he had wallowd
 in his humnity & G want him 2find out 4himself
 So Sol state his conclusin-Vs 26
 Here Sol cp persn who folowr of G, & Bliev in othr words, & a
 persn who livs lif apart fr/G
 Wat Sol say is wat Js sed in 4is earthly minstry not 2wel acpt
 by nearers
 Mt 17:25 ask in parabl & discip ask why
 Vs 11-Js expl
 Vs 12-Js mks pt Sol had reach many yrs w4
 Whoevr has refts 2thoz who Bliev; thoz who hav bir givn gift of
 etnl lif receiv by trust in Js Yr
 Then B th/Tru citizens of th/Kingdom who hav receiv King
 Whoevr acpts salv fr/4=2 Him shal mor B givn
 Th/persn who acpts wat G has 4him-Vs The lite, mor lite wilP givn
 G wil add 2that persn 4is riches in 2lory
 All that Fathr has Heuwn th/posessn of His childrn& he shal
 hav abundance
 But fate of UnBliev is Jus onest
 Vs 125 He try hol on things this lif, & cant do it
 evrthin this worlde guds, all worl has 2offr, wil slir fr/grasy
 He has no acpt th/lite wh/G has givn & so wat he has shalR
 n away & givn 2othrs
 This is conclusin Sol ariv at, st end chap 2

"Plan A: The Search"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Before we continue with our study of Ecclesiastes, for next week our homework is to read the third chapter of the book. If possible, read the entire book through once a week. In this way, you will get a feel of what Solomon is trying to say.

(Illustration of Lincoln on "Financial success")

Abraham Lincoln once said:

"Financial success, is purely metallic. The man who gains it has four metallic attributes: gold in his palm, silver on his tongue, brass in his face, and iron in his heart!"

(Illustration of "Success" according to world's standard of wealth)

In 1923 a group of the world's most successful financiers met at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Collectively, these tycoons controlled more wealth than there was in the United States Treasury, and for years the newspapers and magazines had been printing their success stories and urging the youth of the nation to follow their example.

"Twenty-seven years later, here ~~is~~ was their record.

Charles Schwab - the president of the largest independent steel company - lived on borrowed money the last five years of his life, and died penniless.

Arthur Cutten - the greatest wheat speculator - died abroad insolvent.

Richard Whitney - the president of the New York Stock Exchange - was released from Sing Sing Prison.

Albert Fall - the member of the President's Cabinet - was pardoned from prison so he could die at home.

Jesse Livermore - the greatest "bear" in Wall Street - committed suicide.

Leon Fraser - the president of the Bank of International Settlements- committed suicide.

Ivar Kpuegar - the head of the world's greatest monopoly - committed suicide.

Here were world famous men of yesteryear who had learned how to make money, but not one of them had learned how to live. There is no isolated series of lives from the past and since then everyone has learned how to live. Their lives are typical of the human race. Man, since the beginning of time has been involved in a quest for the things to make life easier and richer. Why do you suppose the state lotteries are flourishing all across our nation? People from all walks of life are seeking to get something for nothing; to gain instant success and riches; and to ~~make~~ live life on "easy street."

King Solomon, David's son who succeeded him on the throne was a man exactly like this. He started out in the court of his father. He was accustomed to the good life to be lived as part of the troyal family.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

We are told in the Old Testament book of 1st Kings, chapter 3, that Solomon had gone to Gibeon to sacrifice. Actually, he was going to sacrifice at what was called "the high places." At this time it was not sinful, since the temple had not yet been built. But after the temple was built it was considered an abomination to the Lord. So it is we read in this 3rd chapter of 1st Kings, starting at the 4th verse, (Read verses 4 through 15). Solomon was granted not only wisdom from God, but an added bonus of riches and honor. Solomon amassed more than a fortune in his lifetime. He was always adding to his treasury and to his stables, so that he was the wealthiest monarch who had ever lived up to this time. But as life began to pass him by, and he grew to be an old man, he discovered that wealth didn't bring happiness with it. In fact, it brought the concern and care, and worry of how to hold on to it. So he was searching for the answers to life and in our Scripture for this morning we read of his "Search." Solomon has protested the futility of many things in life.

and now he states, "I, the preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem."

He now comes to the 1st person in identifying himself. In the very beginning of the book he had stated, "The words of the preacher." Now he says, "I, the preacher."

And then he set forth his search. In verses 13 and 17 he says, "I have set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom."

He is simply saying that he is using reasoning to determine what life is all about. The reasoning process is to look at things in a logical sequence of events. It is the old mathematical system of 2 plus two equals four.

(Illustration of man winning lottery by being smart and lucky)

There was a man not too long ago who had faith that he would win the big money in the lottery one day. Finally he did win the biggest prize. Asked how he did it, he said, "I was smart and I was lucky." He explained, "I like the number 7. I figured two 7's would be luckier than one, so I multiplied 7 times 7 and put all my money down on number 48 and I won!" But his friend protested, "7 times 7 is not 48, it's 49!"

The man replied, "I know, that's the lucky part."

Solomon was seeking to find the answer by logical reasoning and he comes to the conclusion as we read in the 14th verse, (read this). He ticks off the meaninglessness of life by reasoning, (read verse 15 through 18). He comes to the conclusion that the more knowledge a person has, the more he ~~thinks~~ cannot understand the meaning of life.

So then Solomon began to logically test the things of life that supposedly would bring him pleasure. (Read 2:1), he tried pleasure, "and enjoyment, but it was useless. (Read verse 2), he tried laughter, but that didn't work either. (Read verse 3A), he tried wine and that didn't satisfy. (Read verses 4 through 6), none of this brought happiness. (Read verse 7), increasing his holdings with slaves and cattle, didn't bring happiness either. (Read verse 8), he reached out for money and riches and this didn't help. (Read verses 9 through 11), all of this turned out to be futility for him. (Read verses 12 through 16), he comes to the conclusion that both rich and poor, wise and foolish have the same end, and he laments, (read verses 17 through 20).

Then he realizes as well, (read verse 21). A man may make a fortune and leave it to his heirs, but how will they handle it? Many times, the legacy is not appreciated and is squandered and lost in a short period of time. So Solomon says, "What's the use?" He comes to the place where he says, (Read verse 24A). But Solomon came to the logical conclusion that (Read verse 24B). It is from the hand of God. God is in control of life. In fact, he says, (Read verse 25). Apart from God there is no pleasure in life; there is no enjoyment of what we have; and there is no rest except a person recognize that we get what we get with the blessing of God. And if we strive to do it apart from Him, life is meaningless, it is "Vanity" as Solomon says.

Then Solomon comes to the most logical conclusion that he could reach at this point. Remember, God is letting him search for the answers to life apart from God. He has wallowed in his humanity and God is letting him search for the answers on his own. So now, Solomon states his conclusion, (read verse 26). Here Solomon compares the person who is a follower of God, a believer in other words, and a person who lives life apart from God. What Solomon is saying is a point Jesus made in His earthly ministry which didn't sit too well with those who heard it. Matthew records this in the 13th chapter of his Gospel. If you will turn to

the 13th chapter of Matthew, you will note in the beginning of the chapter Jesus speaks to the people in a parable. His disciples ask Him why He spoke in parables and He gives them an explanation. In the 11th verse Jesus says, (read this). Then He makes the point that Solomon had reached many years before and in the 12th verse we read, (Read this).

"Whoever has," refers to those who believe. Those who have been given the gift of eternal life, received by trust in Jesus Christ. These are the true citizens of the Kingdom who have received the King. Whoever accepts Salvation from God, "To him shall more be given." The person who accepts what God has ~~for~~ him, "Jesus the Light," more light will be given. God will add to that person His riches in glory. All that the Father has, becomes the possession of His children, and "He shall have an abundance."

But the fate of the unbeliever is just the opposite. "Even what he has shall be taken away from him."

He is trying to hold on to the things of this life, he cannot do it. Everything of this world's goods, all that the world has to offer, will slip from his grasp. He has not accepted the Light which God has given and so what he has shall be taken away and given to others. This is the final conclusion Solomon arrived at in the end of the this 2nd chapter.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor April 24, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Robin Kaiser and Raymond Gamble

* * * * *
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Proclamation Hymn No. 323 "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God
Almighty"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Almighty God, who brought again
from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, help us in the days
of our flesh to minister like Him. Keep our tempers cool
and our spirits calm; make us brave to fight for the
right and to stand firm against those who would oppress
the weak. Give grace to us that we may know that He is
our living Lord, and strength to follow in His footsteps;
in His name we pray. Amen.

*Kyrle

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Sermon with Bob

Hymn No. 601 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with you
People - And with Thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Alleluia! Rise Up and Sing"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

Sermon: "Plan A: The Design"

*Invitational Hymn No. 621 "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed in
memory of Lawson Hindman by Fanchon and Joy Hindman.

Mr. & Mrs. Gottlob Kradel will greet our members and
friends this morning at the door.

Ushers for today are Don Kingsley, Dick Mangel, Dick Dally,
and George Pflugh.

Attendance last Sunday was 134 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Dave Brinker and Dave
Sacco.

Ken Draxinger, Lloyd Link, and Rick Vinroe will be visiting
the hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Mrs. Sue Gamble in BMH. ^{OUT JAMIE ANIARI}
Charlie Penar is in Sugar Creek Home ^{KEN HEITZEL}

> "CAUGHT" insert in today's bulletin is a reminder that the
showings of this timely, action-filled story begins in
less than a week. This flier reveals a part of the
exciting story without revealing the heart stopping high
points of the film. Share this flier with your friends
and invite them to the movie. Tickets are still avail-
able through the office until Wednesday. Please stop by
and get them now. We ask that you continue to pray that
God will mightily bless these showings and that many will
come to know the Savior! Dates are April 29 thru May 5
at the Plaza Theatre. Check the newspaper for times.

> "Cry From the Mountain", another Billy Graham movie will be
shown here at the church on May 15th. It is open to the
public, so bring a friend to the movie. Refreshments will
be served. There is now admission charge, but a free will
offering will be taken.

> Bible Study is being held on Sunday evenings at 7:00 P.M.
Why don't you come and join us as we study God's word
more thoroughly.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed
by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for
reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations
you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to
pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of
this opportunity.

SCRIP: ECC 3:1-11; SERMON: "PLAN A: DESIGN"

HOMEWORK: READ CHAPTERS 4 & 5 - (ONLY 12 entire book)
IF READING "THE ONE YEAR BIBLE" - NEW INT VERSION,
TH/READING OF THIS IS SEPTEMBER 3rd OF THAT YEAR
IF OLD IDEA SPREAD FR/VARIOUS VERSIONS 20GT TASTE WAT MAKING PLAC
FOR 2DAY I READ 6 DIFFERENT VERSIONS)

(ILUS CARDINAL NEWMAN QUOTE BOUT NOT LIVING)

TIME IS SHRW TALK BOUT QUITE OFTEN
(ILUS COMPANY COFFEE BREAK, 5DAYS WK EQUAL 4 1/3 HRS PER YR)
(ILUS PROPL & THEIR USE OF TIME IN HISTORY)

TIME IS AVAILBL & TIME CANB END 2DO ANTH IF DESIR THER
K SOL LK LIF 2DTERM JUS WAT ALL BOUT
AS HE SERCH 4MEAN 2LIF, IN CLT AGE CAM CONCL ---- VS 1

HIS CONCL= G GIVN TIME/PLACE 4EVERTHING
SO IN HIS THINK HE DEDUCE THER SUM SORT "PATTERN" OR "DESIGN"
IN ALL OF THIS

SO HE BGIN TICK THER ITMS OFF, ONE BY ONE.....
VS 2=HE RECCO SPAN OF LIF

BORN - LIV-- DIE, ACORD TO SET SCHEDULE OR "DESIGN"
HE ACKNOWL FARMS GO OUT PLANT SEEDS FIC TIME OF YR
NO FARMR WUD GO OUT MIDL WINTP, PLOW FROZN GRND PLANT CORN
HE WAT TIL SPR & PREP FIELD THEN PLANT
THEN THER TIME 4REAP/HARVES WEN CROP REDY & NOT 8*

VS 3-8-THE SOL LIST & GO THRU ONE BY ONE & GTV CONTRAST 2EA
THESE TIMES/WORKS REASONS R IN CYCLES & HE C LIF AS B CYCLICAL
SC AFTN LK AT CYCLES HE ASKS QUESTIN

VS 9=HAT GAIN DUZ A MAN GET FR/HIS WORK???

TH/ANSWER HE COME UP WITH VS 10-11A -
THER MAN'S WORK IS, G USES IT 2SUIT HIS PURPS & EVRTH IS
ORDNLY ARRAY

EBRTH G DUZ IS ACORD HIS DELIB PLAN & NUTH DUN AT RANDOM
SOL WAS SAY EVRY PERSNS WORK HELPS CONTRIB 2THAT PLAN SUM WAY
BUT THER IN THIS A MYSTRY WH/MAN SEEKS 2UNRAVEL & SOL SAYS.....

VS 11B=NEW AM STNRD VRSIN READS -----
"HE HAS ALSO SET ETRNTY IN THER WORKS HART, YET SO THAT MAN WIL
NOT FIND OUT TH/WORK WH/GOD HAS DUN FROM TH/BGIN EVN 2 TH/END"
W/IN MAN IS SERCH 4LIFS MEAN & SOL KNT MAN ONLY LIV CRT NUMBR
YRS, BUT THER MUSH SUMTH MOR THAN THIS
AND AS HE PONDR THIS HE SAY G HAS GIVN TH/THOT OF AN ETRNTY,
A GLIMPSE OF A LIF BYON, BUT MAN UNABL 2UNDERST ALL G HAS DUN,
OR WIL DO

VS 12=SOL ENCOURAG EVRONE 2SEEK 2DO WAT IS RT/JUST WHIL IV ON
UNDRLY THEORY=LIF 4ANS ENJOY, NO NEED 2SEEM USELES ERTH

VS 13= READ

VS 14-15=SOL CUM 2PT WHER THINK TERMS G'S WIL & ULT EVRTH IS IN
G'S CONTROL
FR/THAT LABOR CAN GAIN SATISFACTIN CUDNT DERIV ANY OTHR WAY
AND ISNT IT A JOY 2B ABL ACOMPLISH SUMTH W/HANDS OR MIND & TO
KNO THAT TH/LABOR HAS BIN WORTHWHIL???

VS 14-15=SOL CUM 2PT WHER THINK TERMS G'S WIL & ULT EVRTH IS IN
G'S CONTROL

SO AS HE THINKS OF G, HIS THOTS TURN 2REALTY GUD/EVIL, RITUS NES
JD EVIL & HE OBSERVS VS 16 - (READ)

WE THINK IN OUR TIME WE HAV CORRUPT JUDGS/SNATORS/PRESIDENTS, BUT
THER IS NO CORNER ON THAT MARKET

IT HAS BIN THIS WAY THRU ALL OF HISTRY & WIL CONTINU SO
(ILUS BUEY LONG, LOUISIANA POLITICIAN & HIS DECEIT)

NEED WE SAY MORE???

POWER & MONEY ALWAYS TALKS TO THOZ WHO CANB BOT

THUS IT WAS THAT SOL HAS CUM 2SERIOUSLY THINK THRU LIFE & MEANING
IN EA INSTANC G HAS LET HIM DO THIS FR/HUMAN SINDPOINT

BUT THAT SERCH ALWAY BRING BAK 2START PT
AND THAT STARTING PT IS GOD

EVRTH IN LIF BGIN & ENDS W/GOD

MAN MAY NOT ALWAYS BELIEV SC, BUT JUS LK WISE K SOL TH/TOTAL WIS
WISDOM OF LIF 4ANYTH & EVRBODY IS GOD

SC SOL HAV THOT THIS THRU SEES GOD'S "DESIGN & SAYS
VS 17=LK SED VS 1, NOW THER WILB TIME JUDGMENT 4EVRONE

NO ADVANTAG 8 WELTHY, POSSES EVRTH, 8 WISE,
NUTH WIL STOP G'S JUDGMENT OR ESCAP FROM IT

VS 18=WHY HE SAY THIS??

VS 19-20=ALL MUS DY MAN & BEAST

HE WRIT OF "BREATH" & KNU THER DIF TWEEN MAN/BREAST

SOL KNU FR/MOSES WRIT G BRETH IN2 MAN "BREATH OF LIFE"

HE MERLY SAY G CONTROL BRETH OF BOTH MAN/BREAST & WEN STOP BREATH
NEI"HR DIF FR/OTHR

VS 21="SPIRIT" - GOD BREATHED - R - U - A - C - H

BRETH OF LIF IN MAN, & NOT ANIMALS & THIS IS DIF

VS 22=CONCLUSIN - MAN SHUDS CONTENT 2LIV I.F WATEVR LOT MAYB

SHUD KNO G IN CONTROL & NOT WORRY BOUT WAT WIL TAK PLACE AFTN
G HAS CALID FR/THIS LIF

QUITF SIMPLY=SOL FND CUDNT EXPLAIN GOD COMPLETELY

HE JUS KNU GOD HAD BROT HIM THRU ALL OF THIS

(ILUS FRANY WERFEL & MIRACL AT LOURDES & STORY BHIND THIS)

THIS ABOUT ALL WE CAN SAY PANYONE IN LIFE

"FOR THOZ WHO BELIEV IN G, NO EXPLANATIN IS NEEDED;

FCP THOZ WHO DO NOT BELIEV IN GOD, NO EXPLANATIN IS POSSBL"

SEEK HIM, & CUM 2KNOW HIM IN UR LIF, THRU CHRIST

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SAGAMORE

WELCOMES YOU..

May 2, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

**HYMN-----A King Is Coming-----#313

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN--Like A Lamb Who Needs The Shepherd--# 61

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

SERMON: "Plan A: The Design"

**HYMN-----Reach Out To Jesus-----#430

**BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

** Please stand

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE WEEK....

* Please—if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birth dates to JoAnn or Joyce.

* **May 3, 1998** : Youth Group 6-8 pm. Please plan to attend we are doing something special.

* **May 9, 1998** : Lasagna Dinner 4 - 7 pm

* Laura Abbey is doing better. Thank you for your PRAYERS!

* Please keep the BILCO receipts coming every little bit adds up

* Easter Egg Sales: Profit \$972.75 - - Last chance to buy a homemade Easter Egg before you are to late: See Matilda.

* The Youth Group are selling Auntie Anne Pretzel Coupons for \$2.25. Please sponsor your Youth.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

May 3-----Don Bailey

May 9-----Ryan Shotts

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

May 4---George and Chris Mikcska

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

WORK FOR THE LORD, THE PAY

ISN'T MUCH,

BUT HIS RETIREMENT

PLAN IS OUT OF THIS

WORLD....

--Source Unknown

Plan A: Rem The Design"
 Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
 Homework: Ecclesiastes 4:8-5
 (Thus Carnal Newman quote)
 Tim is sub: talk bout quit of n
 Tim k knc 4 instanc-10 min coffy brk, 5 days wk add to 43 1/2 hrs
 i. as tim: Thats ovr 1 wks vacatin time
 (Thus peopl & use of time)
 Tim is avail, k tim can't frd 2 do anyth if desir is ther
 K Sol was lk lif 2 determ jus wat it all about
 & as serch 4 mean of lif in his old age, cam 2 conclusin=Vs 1
 Conclusin=G had givn tim & plac 4 evrthing
 in his think cam 2 deductin ther sum sort pattern=Design in all
 this
 he Bpin tik of items 1 by 1
 vs 2 span of lif: we born/dy/liv acord set schedul Design
 ex-farmr no plant in winter: crops ripn harv etc
 thez times in cycles & he name -vss 7-8
 vs 9: after cycles ask quest??
 Sol ansr vss 10-11a
 watevr man's work is G uses 2 suit His purps & evrth ordly aray
 evrth: G duz acord delib plan & nuth dun at random
 Sol say avrones work help contrib 2 that plan sum way
 But ther stil mysty in all this wh/man need unravl, Sol say 11b
 w/in man ther serch 4 lif mean & he knu man only liv cert # yrs
 but ther musB sumth mor than this
 & as Sol pondr this, he say G giv man thot etrnly, a glimps of
 lif Byn, but man unabl undrst all G dun, or wil do
 Sol encourag evrl-Vs 12
 evrl shud seek do wat just & rite whil on erth
 th ordly theory here is lif can't enjoy & no need seem useles
 vs 13-15
 lif car hav purp & mean in spite fac man has 2 labr/toil
 fr/labr man can gain satid wh/cudnt deriv any othr way
 isnt it 4ov 2B abl accord sumth w/hands/hed/hart & kno labr worth
 Sol cum think terms G's wil & ultly evrth in G's control & Sol
 say-Vs 14-15
 So he thinks of G & thots turn 2 realtv of gud/evil: ritnes/evil
 Vs 16-we think our times corrup=evr bin, alway wilB-mony talks/buy
 thus Sol cum seriously think thru lif & its meaning
 in es instanc can G let him think thru fr/completely human vu
 but serch alway bring bak 2 start pt & that is=GOD
 Evrth in lif Bpin & end w/G
 man not alway think so/Bliev so, but jus lik this wis K Sol, totl
 wisdom of lif 4 anyth & evrbdy is=GOD
 Sol hav thot all this thro at this pt Q's G's design
 says-Vs 17
 Jus as at Bgin=vs 17 say it apin

Sol cum conclus, serious conclusin involv man=Vs 18
 at this pt he think man & beast R th/same
 & why wud he say this??
 nex Vss he says=Vss 19-20=regardles man/beast all mus dy
 ea I return 2dun of frnd fr/wh cam in wat Sol say
 But ther w/in this pasaz a deeper meaning
 Sol knu in G's Word ther distinctin tween man & beast
 k. knu in Moses writs in Gen tel how G breathd in 2 man breth
 of lif, but G no do same 4 beasts
 wat Sol sav=altho man sepat/distinc fr/beast G stil giv breth
 2 ea & He control that breth, & so man & beast R alik in that
 wen stop breath, they both ded
 Then he ask quest that seem as tho he no hav ansr 2 lif aftrall
 Vs 21-taken at 1st glanc it appear as questin of BnPliev
 but wat he actuly say is=who knows, or, how few R awar that breth
 of man ascend upwrd & breth of beast descen downward 2 th/erth
 Ther is a dif
 wen G breath in 2 man breth of lif, Gen tel us, man R cam liv Being
 man has w/in breth of G & Heb word=RUACH
 it litrly mean=breth, wind, Spirit
 & distinctin tween soul/spirit=Soul is NPH FESH=his nersr or indiv
 Spirit is th animating principle
 it Sp that giv lif 2 th/body & wen persn dy Sp lvs body 2 liv in
 etrnly
 But beast/animal no hav RUACH or Spirit w/in him
 Sol knu cud no undrst all G's Design or inter so conclud by say
 Vs 22=Man shudB contn 2 liv lif watevr lot mgyB, kno that G in
 control & not worry wat wil haps afr gon fr/this lif
 quit simply Sol fnd cudnt expl G completely
 He jus knu G brot him thru all this
 (Thus Franz Werfel, miracul at Lourdes, & story Rhin buk/movie)
 This bout all cud say bout anyl in this lif
 & 4 oz who Bliev in G, no expl is needed
 & 4 thoz who do not Bliev in G, no expl is possibl

RUACH-Breth, wind Spirit = ANIMATING
NEH Fesh -life, soul PRINCIPLE

FRANZ WERFEL - AUSTRIAN JEW
SONG OF BERNADETTE

MOVIE PREFACE:

FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN GOD,
NO EXPLANATION IS NEEDED.

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN
GOD,
NO EXPLANATION IS POSSIBLE.

Cardinal Newman lnce sed:

Fear not that Ur lif shal cum 2 an end,
but rathr, that it shal nevr hav a Agining

Bunyn wrot-Pilgrims Progres fr/jail
Florenc Nitingale 2 ill 2mob fr/her bed, reorg hosps of
Fr and

Semi-parlyzd undr constan menac of apoplexy, Louis Pasteur
was tireles in his attak on diseas

Am historian Francis Parkman suffr so acutly dur grtr
part of lif, cudnt work wor than 5min at time
eysite so wretchd cud only scrawl few gigantic words on
manuscrip, yet was abl 2writ 20 vols of histry

ITOME WKK CHAPS 4 & 5

COFFEE BAK - 10 MIN - 5 DAY WK
AMTS TO 43 1/2 HRS IN YR
OVER A WEEKS VACATION

"Plan A: The Design?"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

(Illustration of not living, by Cardinal Newman)

Cardinal Newman once said, "Fear not that your life shall come to an end, but rather that it shall never have ~~had~~ a beginning."

Time is a subject that is talked about quite often. Did you know for instance, that the 10 minutes coffee break, 5 days a week adds up to $43 \frac{1}{3}$ hours in a year's time? That is over one week's vacation in time.

(Illustration of people andt their use of time)

Bunyan wrote "Pilgrim's Progress" from jail; Florence Nightingale too ill to move from her bed, reorganized the hospitals of England; Semi-paralyzed and under the constant menace of apoplexy, Louis Pasteur was tireless in his attack on disease; And during the greater part of his life the American historian Francis Parkman suffered so acutely that he could not work for more than five minutes at a time. His eyesight was so wretched that he could only scrawl a few gigantic words on a manuscript, yet he was able to write 20 volumes on history.

Time is available, and time can be found to do anything if the desire is there. King Solomon was looking at life to determine just what it was all about. And as he searched for the meaning of life in his old age he came to the conclusion, "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven," verse 1.

He had come to the conclusion that God had given a time and place for everything. ~~xxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxx~~ In his thinking he came to the ~~con~~ deduction
 that there was some sort of pattern, or "Design" in all of this. He begins to tick these
 items off one by one. ~~xxxxxxx~~ He says, "A time to give birth, and a time to die; a time to
 plant, and a time to uproot what has been planted," verse 2.

He recognizes the span of life. We are born, we live, we die, and this is according to a set schedule, or a "Design." He acknowledges that the farmer goes out and plants at a specified time according to the season. No farmer would go out in the middle of winter and plow frozen fields to plant corn or other crops. He waits until the spring arrives and then he prepares his fields and he plants. And then there comes the time of reaping, or harvesting. This isn't done when the crop ~~is~~ hasn't ripened. Instead it is done when the crop is ready. And so it is that Solomon goes through his list of things he has been thinking about and names them one by one with the contrast to each one. These times and seasons are in cycles and he sees life as being cyclical.

But after looking at the cycles of life, Solomon asks the question, "what profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils?" verse 9.

The question is, "What gain does a man have from his work?" And Solomon answers this by saying, "I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves. He has made everything appropriate in its time," verses 10 and 11A.

Whatever man's work is, God uses it to suit His purposes and everything is in orderly array. Everything that God does is according to His deliberate plan and nothing is done at random. Solomon was saying that every person's work helps to contribute to that plan in some way.

But there is in all of this a mystery which man seeks to unravel. Solomon says, "He has also set eternity in their hearts yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning to the end," verse 11P.

Within man is the search for life's meaning. He knew that man only lived for a certain number of years, but there must be something more than this. And as he pondered this he says

that God has given man the thought of an eternity, a glimpse of a life beyond, but man is unable to understand all that God has done, or will do.

So Solomon encourages everyone, "I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime," verse 12.

Everyone should seek to do what is just and right while living on this earth. The underlying theory here is that life can be enjoyed and it need not seem useless. He says, "Moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor-it is the gift of God," verse 13.

Life can have purpose and meaning in spite of the fact that ~~as~~ a man has to labor and toil. From that labor he ~~can~~ gain a satisfaction which he couldn't derive any other way. And isn't it a joy to be able to accomplish something with your hands or your mind and know that the labor has been worthwhile?

Solomon has come to the point where he thinks in terms of God's will and that ultimately, every thing is in God's control and that is why he says, (read verses 14 and 15).

And so as he thinks of God, his thoughts turn to the reality of good and evil; of righteousness and evil. He observes, (read verse 16). We think that in our time we have corrupt judges and ~~xxxxxx~~ public officials, but there is no corner on that market. Money always talks to those who can be bought.

Thus it is that Solomon has come to seriously think through life and its meaning. In each instance we can see that God has let him think things through from his completely human viewpoint. But that search always brings him back to the starting point. And that starting point is God. Everything in life begins and ends with God. Man may not always believe so, but just like this wise King named Solomon, the total wisdom of life for anything and everybody is God.

So Solomon having thought all this through at this point sees God's "Design." He says, "I said to myself, 'God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man,' for a time for every matter and for every deed is there," verse 17

Just as he had said at the beginning of this writing, "There is an appointed time for everything, so there will be a time of judgement for everyone. He sees that there is no advantage to being wealthy, or to possess all of the world's goods. There isn't anything that will stop the eventual and ultimate judgement of God. Every person must stand before God to give account for his life. Solomon in his old age is looking at the limited days he has left in this life and he ~~is~~ has come to the conclusion that no one can escape God and His judgement. So it is that Solomon now comes to the serious conclusion involving ~~xxx~~ man. He says, "I said to myself concerning the sons of man, 'God has surely tested them in order for them to see that they are but beasts,'" verse 18.

At this point he is thinking that man and beast are the same. And why would he say this?

In the next verse he writes, "For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity, ~~xxxxxxxix~~ All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust," verses 19 & 20.

Regardless of whether it is a man or a beast, all must die. And each one returns to the dust of the ground from which it came is what Solomon is saying. But there is within this passage the meaning concerning the breath of life. Solomon knew that God's Word tells how there is a distinction between man and beast. He knew that in Moses writings he told how God breathed

into man the breath of life, but God didn't do the same for the beasts. But what Solomon is saying here is that although man is separate and distinct from the beasts, God still gave breath to each and He controls that breath, and so man and beast are alike in that when the man or beast stop breathing, neither is any different from the other. And then he asks the question that seems as though he doesn't have the answers to life after all. He asks, "Who knows that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descends downward to the earth?" verse 21.

Taken at first ~~glance~~ glance it appears like a question of an unbeliever. But what he is asking is, "Who knows," or "How few are aware that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descends downward to the earth?" There is a difference. When God breathed into man the breath of life, we are told in Genesis, man became a living being. Man has within him the Breath of God and the Hebrew word for this is "RUWACH." It literally means breath, wind or spirit. The distinction between soul and spirit is that the soul or Neh-fesh in Hebrew is the person himself as an individual, while spirit is the animating principle. It is the spirit that give life to the body and when a person dies the spirit leaves the body, to live on in eternity. But the animal doesn't have the "Ruach" or spirit within him. Solomon knew that he couldn't understand all of God's Design or interpret it, so he concludes by saying, "And I have seen that nothing is better than that man should be happy in his activities, for that is his lot. For who will bring him to see what will occur after him?" Man should be content to live his life whatever his lot may be, knowing that God is in control and not worry what will happen after he is gone from this life. Quite simply, Solomon found that he could not explain God completely. He just knew that God had brought him through all of this.

(Illustration of Franz Werfel and his miracle at Lourdes, & story behind movie & book)

This is about all we can say to anyone in life. "For those who believe in God, no explanation is needed; for those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible."

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 1, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Kelly Mangel and Wendy Norman

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 325 "All Hail the Power of
Jesus' Name"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) O God, who hast brought us into
this fellowship with one another through thy Son Jesus
Christ: let us be one in thought and mind and spirit.
Help us to strive not to be individuals but to be a
group of fellow believers. Forgive us in our weakness
of turning from thee. Give us strength as we need it
in our times of turmoil and frustration. Help us to
live in the world, but not in all of it. Make our
wills obedient to thine, for we ask it all in Jesus'
name.....Amen.

*Kyrle

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 625 "Lord, Speak to Me"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us Pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "I Need Thee Every Hour" Piano

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "I Will Joyfully Sing!"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5: 18-20

Sermon: "Plan A: To Overcome"

*Invitational Hymn No. 623 "The Longer I Serve Him"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been place in
memory of Mother & Father by Mrs. Ellen Schildroth.

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Bowser will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Frank
Crawford, and Jeff Snyder.

Attendance last Sunday was 118 with 8 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Barb and Chris Andrews.
Art Snyder and Howard Jaillet will be visiting the hosp-
ital this week.

> Hospitalized: Ellen Schildroth, Kenneth Weitzel in BMH.

> "CAUGHT" the newest Billy Graham film opened this past
Friday and many of you may have already seen it. We
look forward to reports of how God is using this tool
to touch and transform lives all through out Butler.
If you have not yet seen CAUGHT, be sure to make plans
now, as this will be a limited engagement. The film is
presented daily at the Plaza Theatre. Please check the
local newspaper for times and matinees.

LAYMEN'S DINNER is scheduled for May 19 at 6:30 P.M. at
St. Peter's U.C.C. in Zelienople. This is also "Ladies
Night", and reservations must be made by May 8th. See
Jake Harmon for tickets. \$4.00 each.

> Bible Study is being held on Sunday evenings at 7:00 P.M.
If you have a free evening, why not join us and learn
more of what God wants for us.

> "Cry From the Mountain", another Billy Graham movie will be
shown here at the church on May 15th. It is open to the
public, so bring a friend to the movie. We will be
having popcorn at the movie. No admission will be charg-
ed, but a free will offering will be taken for movie
rental.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed
by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for
reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations
you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your
life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation
gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to
pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor
will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of
this opportunity.

SCRIP: ECC 5:18-20; SERMON: PLAN A, 10 OVERBOUNDED

HOMEWORK: ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 6, (SEPT 3, ONE YR BIBLE, NIV)

(ILUS SUCCESS, SIX YOUNG LADIES & RESULTS)

(ILUS RUSSELL CONNELL, & BOOK "ACRES OF DIAMONDS")

TENDENCY 2X BYON & C GHAS GREENR OTHR SIDE FENCE

SO EXAC LIK THIS & ALTHO HAD MOS WELTH OF WORL FELT STRNG LONG

HE LKS OR WAS MISS SMTH ALONG TH/WAY

SO RGAN SERCH 4TRU ANSRS 2LIF & IN SO DO, BUT THOTS IN WRITING

AS SOT 2THINK THIS THRU

MUCH 1ST 4CHAPS THIS B K SPOK OF "VANITY," OR MEANINGLESSNES OF

MUCH OF LIF

AS HE LK AT LIF, CAM CONCL TH/MEAN OF LIF, REAL ESENC OF MAN'S

EXISTENC HAD 2INCLUD G, OR IT MEANINGLESS

AT BGIN CHAP VS 1=HE THINK HERE TERMS TEMPL WORSHIP

SYNAGOGUES NO IN EXISTENC THIS TIME, BCUZ JER/TEMPL PLACE WORSHIP

KNU HISTRY OF JWS MAY BIN THINK BAK 1ST K SAUL & HIS DISOBD

1 SAMUEL 15:2-3

VS 1=TRU WORSH CONSIS DO WAT G WANTS, NOT WAT WE THINK IMPORANT
2CBRY G IS ACT OF WORSH BCUZ IT MEAN WE BOW 2HIS WIL, HIS WSHES
NOT OUR OWN

VSS 2-7A=ADVISE B ORED, B SINCERE

VS 6=ANGEL, BETTR MESSENGER, OR PRIEST

VS 7A=DREAMS, MEANINGLES

VS 7B=COMPLET SURENDR 2 GOD, BODY, SOUL, SPIRIT

THAT IS TRU WORSHIP BCUZ IT GIVS 2 GOD TH/COMPLET LIF HE GIVN US

(ILUS JOHN WESLEY & IF HE WER 2DY AT MIDNITE)

THIS TRU WORSH, THGIV 2 GOD OF COMPLET SELF, EVRTH WE HAV, EVRTH WE
R, INCLUD EA PART OF OUR LIVS

SECOND PT SOL MAK:

IT INVOLV LK AT LIF STNDPT OF POWER & MONEY

V 10=TH/LUV OF MONEY IS NOT TH/ANSR

SO, W/HIS WISDOM HAD CUM 2PT OF UNDRST TH/BASIC PT OF LIF, HE SAY

VSS 13-16=ERTHY TREASURS BRNG W/THEM VTHS

ANXIETY, PAIN, THEY DISAPPEAR THRU BAD BUSNES & LEFT WEN DY

THIS WAT VS SED IN SERM ON TH/MT. - MT 6:19-24 - (TURN TO THIS)

VSS 18-20=BASIC & SIMPLY SOL SAY, WHETHR PRSN RICH/POOR OF NO

CONSEQUENC IN TH/LIV OF THIS LIF

BOTH CLASS HAV OWN SET PROBS/CARES

IMPORT=EA PRSN LEARN TRU :ESSN LIF &

THAT IS TO OVR COME, PRSE ABUV CIRCS

OF LIF,

AND TO LIV LIF AS G GIVS 2EA PERSON

IN TH/PROCES OF LIV TH/INDIVID LERNS

2ENJOY LIF EVN IN MIDST TH/CARES

WB/LIF ENGENDERS

MT 6:19-24

VSS 19-21, IF ALL U THINK/WORRY BOUT IS UR STOK PORTFOLIO, U

DONT HAV MUCH TIME 4THOTS OF GOD

NO SAY ANYTH WRONG W/HAV WELTH

HE SAY 2ATHE, FILEUP POSSESSINS NOT MOS IMPORT THING OF LIF

VSS 22-23=OF LITE/DARKNES - GUD/EVIL IF U WIL

VS 24=CANNOT LET MONEY/WELTH CONTROL U OVR ALL ELSE

THEP WERE BALANC TO LIF

WE MUS LEARN 2TAK TIME 4THINGS OF GOD ALONG W/THINGS OF LIFE

THIS CONCL'SIN SOL HAD BIN LERN IN HIS LIFE

WHM SOL SAW ONE LAC BEING WEN HE WRIT HIS THOTS & WORDS

HE SUMS IT UP IN THE LATTER PART THIS CHAPTER 5

VSS 18-20 we read OUR SCRIP 4THIS MORN - (TURN BAK TO THIS)

1 SAM 15:2-3

VSS 2-3=G'S INSTRUCTS 2SAUL & ISRAELITES

VSS 7-9=SAUL'S WAREARE

BUT WAT SAUL DID WAS DISPLEAS TO TH/LORD & WE READ

VSS 10-11=SAM IS GRIEVD BY THIS, HIS CONCERN AS TH/PRIEST OF ALL

T PED GRIEVD HIM THAT SAUL DISOBEYED

VS 12=SAM CONFRONT XNWL SAUL, & SAM REPORT

VS 14=SAM ASKED BOUT ANIMALS, IF ALL WER DESTOYD AS G ASK

VS 15=SAUL'S ANSR "IT WAS THEM, THAT DID IT"

(EXAMPLE ADAM BLAM EVE, EVE BLAM SERPENT, ETC, ETC, EVN 2DAY)

VSS 16-19=SAM EXPL WAT SAUL WAS 2DO ACCRD 2TH/INSTRUCTS OF GOD

VSS 20-21=SAUL INSIST ON BLAM OTHRS

VSS 22-23=SAM SEZ=OBEDIENC IS BETTR THAN SACRIFICE

THIS IS ACTULY WAT SOLOMON IS SAY IN 1ST VS CHAP 5 OF ECC

HE SAY=B ORED TO TH/L RATHR THAN THINK EVRTH IN WORSH RISES &

FALES ON TH/TROPR SACRIFICE

(TURN BAK 2CHAP 5, ECCLESIASTES)

2/

QILUS MOTHER BAD DAY, DIAL APRAYR)

2B ABL 2OVRUM IS WAT XPIANTY TEACH
UR CIRCUMS MAY SEEM IMPOSIBL MANY
TIMES,

U MAY FEEL UR TH/ONLY BLIEVR IN THE
ENLIRE CROWD,

BUT WE R CALLD 2OVERCOME

(ILUS PICTUR OF PICTUR OF MISSIONARY)

WORLD MAY VIEW AS FAILSURE, BUT IN SITE
OF GOD ANYONE LIK THAT SERV GOD HAS
OVERCOME TH/WORLD

JESUS SED JN 16:33:

I HAV OVERCOME THE WORLD

SO WE NEED FEAR NOT

BCUZ HE HAS OVRUM TH/WORLD, SO CAN
WE

R U WIL 2TRUS HIM W/UR ENTIR LIF FROM
NOW ON?

R U WIL 2TRUS HIM FR/TODAY ON????

THIS WEEK???????

WIL U ANSR HIS CALL & OVERCOME?????

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
OF SAGAMORE

WELCOMES YOU..
May 10, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

**HYMN-----Heaven Came Down-----#657

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----The Light Of The World-----#636

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

SERMON: "Plan A: To Overcome"

**INVITATIONAL HYMN----He Touched Me-----#628

**BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

** F stand

ANNOUNCEMENTS
OF THE WEEK.....

* **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO EVERY MOTHER HERE !**

* **May 16, 1998:** Brian Bailey and Leisa Weston invites everyone to attend their wedding at 2:30 PM here at the church. Reception following at Ernest Union Hall.

* **May 30, 1998:** March for JESUS! Anyone interested in going please meet at the church that day at 8:15 AM. The Youth Group will be leaving at that time. We will be stopping at McDonald's for lunch before we return.

* Please—if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birth dates to JoAnn or Joyce.

CORR. LIT - SEE JOYCE - / EA FAMILY
* Please keep the BLO receipts coming every little bit adds up. *200*

HYMN SING - HEAT SUN - DINNER AFTER CH.
* The Youth Group are selling Auntie Anne Pretzel Coupons for \$2.25. Please sponsor your Youth.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

We are always in the forge,
or on the anvil;
By trials God is shaping
us for higher things.

PAUL ALYI

RUDY

GENE

JANET - CAMERON

SUE

ANNE/STEN PANGEL

PRabl Povroum is wat Xpianty teach
 Er circumstanc may seem impossibl
 I may feel I only Xpiant in entire crowd
 But "Fear not," our Lord says, "I nav ovroum tn/world"
 & Reuz He has ovroum tn/world, so can we
 & I will 2 trus Him w/entire lif fr/new on?
 & I will 2 trus Him fr/day on?
 Will I trus Him this wk?
 Will I trus Him cal = To Overcome?

Thus Alf-Hafed-Russell Conwell-Acres of Diamonds

See our conclusion, lif w/entire meanness
 vs 1st templ worship

(Thus sit on Dav's knee & learn history)
 1 Sam 15:2-7; 17:2-11; 17:21-22, 23

Thus Wn Wesley & if knu wud dv nex nite midnite)

10-11-12 of many not answer

vs 18-20-sumatir his thots

(Thus Mad Murry (Chair & visit collez campus)

HOME WORK - READ 6 THRU 12

"Plan 1: To Overcome"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:18-20

(Thus Acres of Diamonds)

But tendency is 2K upon & C grad green on other sid of fence
 Sol exact lik this, altho own men all welts of world, felt strang
 long he mis smth along way

He had seen & tru anser 2lif & in so do put thots in writ as
 I think all this thru

In much 1st Achaps of buk spok of Vanity or meanness of lif
 & he lk at lif had cum 2conclusin tis aftr tis th/mean of lif,
 th/real mean of mans existens had 2includ G or it meanness
 Sol-think terms templ worsk

Individ synagog wh/sprung up aftr Jew dispers wer not in exist
 worsk confis 2 tem & all Gud Jews cam 2 temple

Sol had built templ & knu it as place 2tru worship

He knu knovry of Jews & may hav thot bak 2im wen he had learn

history

(Thus of sit Father David's knee & tol of Saul)

1st Sam 15:2-7, 17:2-11, 17:21-22, 22-23

Sam sez-Chad is better than sacrific & this wat Sol saw chad 5,
 vs 1

He need 2 th/ rather than think evrth in worsk ris & fal on
 propr sac is actual wat Sol say

tru worsk consist in do wat I wante, not wat we think is import
 2 obey G is an act of worsk beuz it mean we bow 2 His wil, His
 wishes not our own

Sol giv this advic as can G in read vs 2 thru 7

He sum up w/words-batth, fear God - vs 18

Sol advocat complet surrendr 2 G w/body, soul, sp

that is tru worsk beuz giv 2G th/complet lif He has givnvs

(Thus Wn Wesley & if he knu he wud dy at midnite)

This tru worsk, th/piv 2-G, th/complet self; evrth we h & evrth we

up 2 & includ en part our livs

and pt Sol mak in lk at life circumstanc in that wh/involv powr

& many

He learn fr/exper of lif ques 4many bring evil w/it & th powr

thuv anyth includ peo, & this powr eventully completly corrupt

tr/individ

vs 10-pt out lot of many is not anar

Sol w/wisdom had cum 2 pt of undret basic pt of life-vs 13-14

He say exac wat He sed wen Begin minstry-term Meant 6:12-24

Sol saw 1 las being on this occasin wen writ thez words & his

thots in sumatin record vs 18-20

Basic, simply: Sol say wheter person rich/poor of no consequenc

both clus hav own sets probs/cares & wat is import: person learn

any leas of lif is 2 Ovroum

Tris shuv circum of lif & liv lif as G giv Dea persn 2 in pro-

cess of liv, individ learn 2enjoy lif evr in mid cares wh lif

engendr

(Thus Mad Murry (Chair & visit collez campus)

"Plan A: To Overcome"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

(Illustration of "Acres Of Diamonds")

Years ago a minister named Russell Conwell told of an ancient Persian, Ali Hafed who owned a very large farm that had orchards, grain fields, and gardens and was a wealthy contented man. One day a wise man from the East told the farmer ~~about~~ all about diamonds and how wealthy he would be if he owned a diamond mine. Ali Hafed went to bed that night a poor man -- poor because he was discontented. Craving to have a mine of diamonds he sold his farm to search for the rare stones. He traveled the world over, finally becoming so poor, broken and defeated, that he committed suicide.

One day the man who purchased Ali Hafed's farm led his camel into the garden to drink. As the camel put his nose into the brook, the man saw a flash of light from the sands of the stream. He pulled out the stone which reflected all the hues of the rainbow. The man had discovered the most magnificent mine of the world.

Had Ali Hafed stayed at home, ~~he~~ and dug in his own garden, instead of death in a strange land, he would have had, "Acres of Diamonds," as Russell Conwell entitled this story.

But the tendency is to look beyond and to see that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. Solomon was exactly like this. Although he owned ~~almost~~ almost all the wealth of the world, he felt the strange longing that he was missing something, or had missed something along the way. He began a search for the true answer to life and in so doing he put his thoughts in writing as he sought to think all of this through. In much of the first four chapters of his book he spoke of the "vanity" or meaninglessness of much of life. As he looked at life he had ~~come~~ come to the conclusion time after time that the meaning of life, the real essence of man's existence had to include God or it was meaningless.

Solomon writes at the beginning of this 5th chapter, "Guard your steps as you go to the House of God, and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil," verse 1.

Solomon was thinking in terms of the temple worship. The individual synagogues which sprang up after the Jews were dispersed throughout the different nations were not in existence at this time. Worship was confined to Jerusalem and all good Jews came to the temple. Solomon had built the temple and he knew it as the place for true worship.

He knew of the history of the Jews and he may well have been thinking back to the time in the life of Israel's first king how God had taken the kingdom from Saul because of his disobedience. We find recorded in the book of 1st Samuel the incident Solomon may have been relating to when he wrote these words of this verse. It is back there in the 15th chapter that we read of Samuel's instructions to Saul beginning at the 2nd verse, (read verses 2 & 3).

It is then that we learn of Saul's warfare with the Amalekites as we read, (read verses 7 through 9). But what Saul did was not pleasing to the Lord and we are told, (read verses 10 & 11). So Samuel goes to meet Saul and verse 12 relates the information that Samuel is given concerning Saul. And then is recorded the confrontation between Saul and Samuel in verses 13 through 21, (read these).

Saul tells of the disobedience which took place, but he places the blame on the people. "IT was THEM that did it," is what he is saying. But Samuel is unwilling to take any excuses for the disobedience because Saul was responsible for what took place. If he had been willing to do as God commanded, he would have ordered his men to follow God's orders to the letter. But he didn't and so it is that Samuel tells him, (read verses 22 & 23).

Samuel says, "Obedience is better than sacrifice." And this is what Solomon is saying in this 1st verse of the 5th chapter of Ecclesiastes, "Draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools."

Be obedient to the Lord rather than think that everything in worship rises and falls on the proper sacrifice is actually what Solomon is saying. True worship consists in doing what God wants, not what we think is important. To obey God is an act of worship because it means we bow to His will, His wishes, not our own. Solomon gives this advice as we can readily see reading verses 2 through 7, (read these). He sums it up with the words, "Rather, fear God," verse 7B0.

Solomon was advocating a complete surrender to God with body, soul and spirit. That is true worship because it gives to God the complete life which He has given us.

(Illustration of John Wesley and if he knew he would die at midnight)

A woman once asked John Wesley what he would do if he knew that his life were to end at midnight the next day. He answered, "Why madam, I would do just as I intend to do now. I would preach this evening at the church to which I am going. Then I would preach again at 5 tomorrow morning; and after that I would ride to the next town and preach in the afternoon and preach again in the evening. I would go to the home to which I have been invited, I would talk and pray with them until bedtime; then I would retire at 10:00 o'clock, commend myself to my Heavenly Father, lie down to sleep and awake in glory."

This is true worship. The giving to God, the complete self; everything that we are and everything that we have up to and including each part of our lives.

The second point Solomon makes in looking at the circumstances of life is that which involves power and money. He learned from his experiences in life that the quest for money brings with it the power to buy anything including people, and this gives power, which eventually completely corrupts the individual. But he points out that the love of money is not the answer, (read verse 10). Solomon with his wisdom had come to the point of understanding the basic point of life and he said, (read verses 13 through 16). He was saying exactly what Jesus told the world many years later. When Jesus was preaching at the beginning of His ministry in what has come to be known as the Sermon on the Mount, He spoke along these same lines in language that left no doubt as to what a person was to do in this life. In Matthew chapter 6, we read His very familiar words. (Read Matthew 6, 19 through 24, and explain.)

Solomon saw one last thing on the occasion when he was writing these words and his thoughts in summation are recorded in verses 18 through 20, (read these verses).

Basically and simply Solomon is saying that whether a person is rich or poor is of no consequence in the living of this life. Both classes have their own sets of problems and cares. What is important, is that a person learns the true lesson of life and that is to "Overcome." To rise above the circumstances of life and to live life as God gives it to each person. And in the process of living, the individual learns to enjoy life even in the midst of the cares which life engenders.

(Illustration of Madelyn Murray O'Hair & visit to college campus)

To be able "To Overcome" is what Christianity teaches. Your circumstances may seem impossible many times; you may feel that you are the only believer in the entire crowd. But fear not our Lord says, "I have overcome the world." And because He has overcome the world, so can we. Are you willing to trust Him with your entire life from now on? Are you willing to trust Him from today on? This week? Will you answer His call, & "Overcome?"

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 8, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Wendy Norman and Kelly Mangel

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Proclamation Hymn No. 1 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Gracious God, our Father, we know that the home is where the heart is, but too often we confess our desire to be elsewhere. We treat our homes as merely place to come to when we have no where else to go. We ask forgiveness for the times we have spread dissention at home instead of peace; for hatred instead of love; for misery instead of joy. Let us be more thankful for what we have and less envious of the things of our neighbors. Help us to build our homes upon that solid rock foundation which can withstand the storms of life, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Sermon with Bob

Hymn No. 230 "His Name is Wonderful"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory by the Youth Orchestra

*Doxology - page 382

Dedication of Memorial Vase and Music Folders

Anthem: "Be Thankful" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 6: 1-12

Sermon: "Plan A: Destiny"

*Invitational Hymn No. 538 "A Christian Home"

*Closing Times

*Benediction

*Postlude

+ + + + +

*Congregation Standing + + + + +

The Women's Mary Prugh Circle have placed the flowers on the altar in memory of deceased members.

Mrs. Melanie Morrison and daughter Stacey will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are: Helen Riemer, Phyllis Tait, Alma Dally and Shirley Thompson.

Attendance last Sunday was 126 with 10 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Mary Jane

Weisenstein.

Dick Dally will be visiting the hospital this week with Ken Draxinger.

Hospitalized: Ken Weitzel & Ellen Schildroth in BMU. - 047

MONDAY - VBS staff meeting at 7:00 P.M. Please be there!

Sunday School teachers meeting at 8:00 P.M.

We need those teachers and assistants there also.

May 9th Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Sherman will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Choir practice on Thursday at 8:00 for the Youth, 7:00 for the Chancel Choir and 8:00 for the special music.

Bible study is being held on Sunday evenings at 7:00 P.M. Sure would like to see you join us.

Butler Area Laymen are holding their next dinner on May 19 at St. Peter's U.C.C. in Zellenople at 6:30 P.M. This is "Ladies Night" so please get your tickets from Jake Harmon. Today is the reservation deadline.

The Ladies Spring Banquet will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at 6:00 P.M. Please bring a tureen, table service, and plan to have a good evening. Entertainment will be a part of the evening as well as election of new Women's Fellowship officers. Meat, dessert and beverage will be provided.

The enclosed flier is for you to read and share this message that may be able to help someone.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

SCRIP: ECC 6:11-12; SERMON: "PLAN A: DESTINY"

N: 14MEV ORC
NEXT VER R

(ILLUS GIRLS PLAYING "WEDDING" & "FOR RICHIE")

GIRL KNT WAT WAND & THER MANY LK THAT, BUT JUS AS MANY NO KNOW
MANY PEC IGNORNT BOUT WAT BLIEF & WAT SHUD RIEVE
"JUS MAN & BLIEF 'CHRISTIANS BLIEF IN ASTROLOGY." - REAGAN)

Y2C WAT MISTAKN BLIEFS SEM PRO HAV

SOL HAD CUM 2THIS PT HIS LIF

HE START OUT STRNG FOLG G'S PLAN 4HIS LIF

HAD BOM WELTHY, ACUR WIVS (1000 WIVS/MOTHER IN LAWS, 999 2MANY)

WAS TOLD BY GOD, FOREIGN WOM WIL TERN HIM FBZGCD - THEY DLP

SOL IN OLF AGE NOW BERECH 4MEANING FOR HIS LIF

HAF MOP WELTH/MATERIAL GUDS THAN CUD EVR USE,

HAD ALL WYSDM ONE MAY CUD EVR WANT,

YET HE DEPAIR OF LIF IN CLR AGE.

SO WAT WER TH/ANSRS PAUL THIS? WHER HE GO FR/HERE??

SECH HAS BROT HIM ALWAYS BAK 2WAT G HAS DIN & DUT MANS LIF

SC HE WRITES

VSS 1-2=FROM SEVRI FACTS HE LK AT HERE

G BLESSED/GIVS, ALSO TAKS AWAY; MAN MAY GET WELTH, DY & LV 20THRS

MAY RIN THINK BOUT WAT SOME/OTHS MAY DO W/WELTH INHERIT

THIS MAKES CASE 44 FRANKLIN & USES WAT G HAS GIVN

(ILLUS HUSBAND/WIFE DISCUS AFFLUENT FRIENDS, & "RICH NOW, MONY LATR

WE R RICH W/WATER WE HAV & SHUD THANK G & ENJOY LIF GIVN

BUT SOL LK FURTHER AT LIF & QUEST FUTILTY OF LIF

VSS 3-6=TH/GIST OF THIS IS THAT SOL THINK TERMS OF R MOURND

AND IF MOURND WUD GIVN DIGNITY BURIAL & R REMEMBERED

NO BURIAL MEANT COMPLET DISREPEC/DISREGARD 4PERSON'S LIF

2DY W/OUT MOURNS OR HONORS CONSIDR WORS THAN BORN DEE, EVN IF

TH/PERSON HAD MANY CHILDREN & A FUL LIF

(ILLUS HEROD TH/GRT, MURDERER, & MADE SHR WUD MOURND AT DETH)

SOL THEN ASKS QSTION

VS 44 (READ)

TH ELDRY MAN, STILLBORN BABY GC TO SHEL - PLACE OF DEAD

TIME OF SOL BLISE WAS BOTH BORN/WCKE GO SAME PLACE & GOD

WUD/WILL DIREC FINAL RESOLUTIN THOR SPIRITS

WDETH/RESUR/AS/RSIN OF JS BLIEF CHNG THAT BOTH GO IN2ETERNITY BUT

THER SEPARATIN TWEEN WYSD/WICKD

BUT ANY EVENT, BOTH GC IN2 G'S ETERNITY

VS 7-SOL LAWRENT HERE MAN MUS WORK 2SATISFY NEEDS, (HUNGR/DAILY

MONETARY NEEDS, ETC)M BUT HIS DESIRES/APETITES R NEVR SATISFIED

THAT IS=HIS WANTS FOR MORE OF TH/MONETARY THINGS OF LIF

SAYING=EYES BIGGR THAN STOMACH TRU MAY BAK THEN

VS 8, TH/WISE & EVN TH/POOR HAV NO ADVANTAG OVR TH/FOOL

INTERESTING 2NOVE FOOL=KE-S-BEL IN HER & SOL USE PROV/ECC & MEAN

DULL/OBSTINAT, HATES KNOWLEDG, HAS NO XXXXX CAPACITY 2GET WISDM,

IS COMPLACENT, SELF-CONFID, ENJOYS DOING WRONG & DISOBLAYING PCILY,

SHEDS OFF REBUX, SPEECH IS PERVERS & IS PRONE 2MAK MANY BASH PROM

TH/POOR KNO WAT HAV, & CAN BUY & SO KNO HOW WALK B4 OTHERS

IF POOR KNO HOW CONDUCT AFFAIRS, MANY AFFLUENT DO NOT BCUZ HAV 2MUCH
(EXAMPL. CHILDEN AFFLUENT FAMLYC, NO KNO HOW WORK, & WCN'T WORK)

VS 9-SOL POINT OUT BOTH POOR/AFFLUENT HAV SAME PROB

THAT IS, TH/DESIR 2HAV MOR & MOR WAT WORL HAS 2OFFR

HE SAY, BETTR PLK & NOT TOUCH BCUZ WFN U NEVR SATISFYD, MUCH WAT
U GET PROV6 2B IRANINGLES, ADD FRUSTRATIN OF LIF'S MEANING

SOL NOW CUMS 2PLAC WHERHE SEX NATUR ET & ESENC OF EVRTH THAT

EXISTS, INCLUD PROPL WAS FORE-ORDAINED LONG AGO

LOOK HOW HE POINTS THIS OUT IN THE 10th VS (READ THIS)

VS 10A=WATER EXISTS HAS ALREDY BIN NAMED,

AND WAT MAN IS HAS BEEN KNOWN,

HMT MAN CANNOT VS 10B= "HIM" SHUDS CAPITALIZED

BCUZ IY REFERS TO GOD, (SUM BYLES HAV IT THAT WAY)

WHO CAN STAND AGIN GOD, HE IS IN CONTROL

(ILLUS WETHE 4CAST KENTUCKY)

DESTINY OF MAN BEST 2/GOD

HE KNC ALL ROM US & GOD CARES

2HAV EA ONE TO R HIS CHILD

READ VSS 11-12

VSS 11-12

3/

WHO KNOWS WAT LIF ALL ABOUT, OR WAT GOD HAS IN STOR 4US?

(ILLUS WARNER SALLMAN & TH/MIRACLE IN HIS LIFE)

GOD IS IN CONTROL REGARDLES CIRCUMS OF LIF

SOL TAN THIS CONCL BUT NO PRIVILEG 2C COMPLET XXXXX FULFILMENT

D'S LIV THRU JS XP

IN JESUS WE CAN KNOW GOD'S FULFILLING LUV WH/HE WANTS 4EA OF US

DO U KNO UR SO CALLD "DESTINY" IS A PART OF GOD'S PLAN???

AS SMALL & INSIGNIF AS ANYONE OF US MAY SEEM, GOD KNOWS EA OF US

BY NAME

GOD LOVES YOU

HE CARES FOR YOU AND ABOUT YOU

ACCEPT THAT LOVE TODAY, RIGHT NOW!

BILD UR LIF & UR HOME ON THAT FOUNDATION WH/IS JS XP OUR LORD!

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
OF SAGAMORE**
WELCOMES YOU..
May 17, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

**HYMN-----What A Friend-----#466

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----Wonderful Word of Life-----# 29

CLIFF & CATHERINE RICHES & DENA RICHES

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

SERMON: "Plan A: Destiny"

**INVITATIONAL HYMN--Sweet Hour of Prayer--#439

**BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

** Please stand

*PLAY PAFFILICANT SATUR HILLMAN 10:00 AM
SUNDAY PRAYER 10:00 AM*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
OF THE WEEK....**

- * **May 17, 1998:** Hymn Sing! Please plan to attend 2-4 PM Fellowship Dinner after Church Today.
- * **May 29, 1998:** Family Banquet! 6:30 PM.
- * **May 30, 1998:** March for JESUS! Anyone interested in going please meet at the church that day at 8:15 AM. The Youth Group will be leaving at that time. We will be stopping at McDonald's for lunch before we return.
- * **June 5 - 6, 1998:** Revival... Please plan to renew your faith in JESUS! Ed & Janet McDaniel. Friday 7:30 PM Saturday 7:00 PM.
- * Please—if you know any children for Bible School give name, addresses and birth dates to JoAnn or Joyce.
- * Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.
- * The Youth Group are selling Auntie Anne Pretzel Coupons for \$2.25. Please sponsor your Youth.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

May 17-----Ron Ressler
May 20-----Doris Stiffler
May 23-----Ken Branran

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

May 1-----Lou & Norma Hunter

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

THERE IS NO BETTER EXERCISE
FOR THE HEART
THAN REACHING DOWN
AND LIFTING SOMEONE UP.

FAMILIES "AA MEMBERS" FOR
PAUL BILL
DAVE UPSHAW - (2)
EMMA LIZA
BRIAN LUCIA RICH

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 9:1-12
 (Plus 6yr old play w/ w/sister-Jak & ricker)
 Little girl knew exact wat wanted & many peo lik her that realize
 but their jus as many do not kno wat want & jus as currently,
 ther many, many peo hav no idea wat they actually believe
 (I'm a man, astrology & vintage)
 Of this complet fals sence Scrip warn us this occult & weird
 it can't be how mistake our peo can't bout wat chare believe/stan/
 He individ mus deal w/wat believe & what he stan
 Sol was in th a predicament:
 had his strong love in Solo G's plan this lif
 had been wealthy & in do so amas lrg volus wivs as wel
 & sol they foreign wome wid turn hart their gods, but Sol lak
 200 wivs, 200 concubines, many sav wat were 1M wivs
 answer-1M mothers-in-law, mother-in-laws-watvr it 000 too many
 Since Sol got off headin track he search broad ansers "mystery lif"
 he had all material gds evr need & morthad all wisd l man end
 want, & yet despair of lif in old age
 wat was ansr Sol thit? Shor did he go fr/here?
 Sol had cum up w/various ansrs up 2 this pt & so continu in train c
 of that 2spk of wealth & riches - Was 1-2
 Sol sav whil G may giv wealth, honours, honor, yet man wilnot hav
 oportuntiy 2 enjoy them
 in fac he say strangers, foreigners wil hav benefit of it
 strangers/foreigners-thoz who not relative, outside in othr words
 thez peo wil mak use of material possessions man bin bles with
 in accumulat in liftime
 in this chap Sol lik at lif fr/stript sum things w/mak lif seem
 futil
 He cum conclusion stillborn child betr off than man hav many childr
 & live long lif, but unabl enjoy that lif & wat he had
 he pres in words Was 2-3
 Sol kno his baker & was acquaint w/unhappy fr/personal exper
 kno his name fathr sav bin involv in rather nasty bit of royl
 intrigue
 being rais in fathrs cort as yng princ, mothr, servr or both
 wid sav convey 2him that his rol was l of usurrr of th/throne
 Sav 2watvr reason desired anothr mans lif & wen comit adultery
 w/her, she 2cam prop & he contriv 2hav her/han kil
 then he marry her, but Nathan proph conf sav & pronounce G's judg
 on him
 2 Sam 12:13-25 - Read thez vss
 Sol kno this wid sav bin older brot, & may wel hav bin th one 2
 succeed him on throne
 But Sol had some thron at request by mother Bathsheba
 he tak kinde & no heights of wealth & prosperity
 But here in old age was sort lif out

2/
 His final war this pt stat in vss 10-12=(read thez)
 were finally lier in hands of G; man cannot control
 He askes us how-we can disput w/him who is strongr than he ist
 in othr words-who can stan agin God?
 G in control no matter wat war may do
 this not fallacie nor a completely cynical note
 merely a far Sol arriv at, this a far awy person need cum
 to
 (Plus whether lier in Kentucky)
 think about that. Alth 2 mistake quot, th/truth eviden in it
 how is earthly minstry he in servr & taut folowrs bout things wid
 out in th/future
 Mark 13:35-37-Read
 He say watch, 2 on lookout, kno G in control regardless how signal,
 bleak lif may seem 2r
 th destiny of man rests w/God
 He knows our desires, our needs, He kno all bout us regardless of
 who we r
 He knowed one of us persnly
 & He care 2 fix each one 2 His child
 (Plus Warner Ballmer & miraculous recovery from TB)
 G in control regardless of circumstances of lif
 Sol cum 2this conclusion
 but he want priviledge 2 complet fulfil G's luv thru Js Xp
 in Js we say kno G's fulfil luv
 so I know that beco cal-possessing is a part of G's plan
 so small & insignif as any of us may deem, G knows each of us by
 name
 He cares for you
 He luv you
 tryt that luv today, rite now
 2 Sam 12:13-25 - Read thez vss
 2 Sam 12:13-25 - Read thez vss
 2 Sam 12:13-25 - Read thez vss

"Plan A. Destiny"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

(Illustration of 6 year old playing wedding with her sister)

A man tells of going to a wedding with his two small daughters. When they came home, the girls started to play "wedding" and act out what they had seen. The older girl played the part of the minister. The little 6 year-old played the part of the bride. The man believed preacher asked, "Do you take this man for richer or poorer?" The 6 year-old answered, "For richer."

The little girl knew for a certainty just what she wanted. Many people are like her in that respect. But there are just as many others who do not know what they want. And just as surprisingly, there are many, many people who have no idea what they actually believe.

(Illustration of man's misconception of Christianity)

Just this past week shortly after the news media was having a field day with the ridiculous story circulating that President Reagan consulted astrology before making decisions, I was listening to a radio talk show. A man called in to add his thoughts to the conversation and he tried to make a case for the fact that the Reagans are Christians and since they are then it is only natural that they would believe in astrology. His argument was that the wise men who came to the birth of Jesus were followers of astrology and that was why they came to worship Jesus. He said, "Since astrology is spoken of in the Bible in this way, all Christians believe in it."

Of course, this is completely false since Scripture tells us that seeking answers from something such as astrology is dealing in the occult and this is forbidden. It's easy to see how mistaken some people can be about what others believe or stand for. Each individual must deal with what he believes and where he stands. Solomon was in this predicament. He had once been strong in following God's plan for his life. But he had become very wealthy, and in amassing his fortune he had the opportunity to also amass a large volume of wives. God had told him that these foreign women would turn his heart to worship their idols, but Solomon proceeded in his own wisdom to take 700 wives and 300 concubines. (And incidentally, one man from our congregation reminded me that Solomon then had about 1000 Mothers-in law. Or is that 1000 mother-in-laws? Whatever, it's about 999 too many).

Since Solomon had gotten off the beaten track, he was searching for the real answers to the mystery of life. He had all of the material goods he ever needed and more; he had all the wisdom one man could ever want; and yet he despaired of life in his old age. What was the answers to all of this? Where did he go from here?

Solomon had come up with various answers up to this point and so he continues in his train of thought to speak of wealth and riches and he says, "There is an evil which I have seen under the sun and it is prevalent among men - a man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor so that his soul lacks nothing of all he desires, but God has not empowered him to eat from them, for a foreigner enjoys them. This is vanity and a severe affliction." vss 1-2.

Solomon says that while God may give man wealth, possessions and honor, yet man will not have the opportunity to enjoy them. In fact he says, strangers, or foreigners will in fact

have the use or benefit of it. By "strangers" or "foreigners" Solomon means those who are not relatives. Outsiders, in other words will make use of the material possessions that a man has been blessed with accumulating in his lifetime.

In this chapter, Solomon is looking at life from the standpoint of some things which seem to make life futile. He comes to the conclusion that stillborn child is better off than a man who has many children and lives a long life, but is unable to enjoy that life and what he has. He expresses this unhappiness with the words, "All a man's labor is for his mouth and yet the appetite is not satisfied. For what advantage does the poor man have, knowing how to walk before the living? What the ~~eyes~~ eyes see is better than what the soul desires. This too is futility and a striving after wind. verses 7-9.

Solomon knew of his background and he was acquainted with unhappiness from personal experience. He knew for instance, that his father David had been involved in a rather nasty bit of royal intrigue. Being raised in his father's court as a young prince, his mother, or the servants would have conveyed to him that his role was one of a usurper of the throne.

David, for whatever reason desired another man's wife. And when he committed adultery with her and she became pregnant, he contrived to have her husband killed. Then he married her.

But Nathan the prophet confronted David with his sin and pronounced God's judgement upon David. So it is that we read in the 2nd book of Samuel the 12th chapter, beginning at the 13th verse, (read and explain verses 13 through 25). Solomon knew that this would have been his older brother and may well have been the one to succeed David on the throne. But he had assumed the throne at the request by Bathsheba. He took the kingdom to new heights of wealth and prosperity. But here in his old age, he was sorting life out.

His final answer at this point is stated in verses 10 through 12, (read these). Man's Destiny lies in the hands of God and man cannot control it. He asks, "Who can dispute with him who is stronger than he is?" verse 10B.

In other words, "Who can stand against God?" God is in control no matter what man may do.

This is not a fatalistic nor a completely cynical note. It is merely a fact that Solomon has arrived at. This is a fact that every person needs to arrive at.

(Weather forecast in Kentucky)

A weather forecast in Kentucky omitted the word "Showers," and the prediction stated, "There is less than a 5 per cent chance of tonight and tomorrow."

Think about that! Although it was a mistaken quote, the truth of life is evident in it.

During Jesus' earthly ministry he was in Jerusalem and he taught His followers about things that ~~would~~ were to come in the future. In Mark chapter 13 we find recorded those words.

Reading from the 32nd verse, Jesus said, (read verses 32 through 37).

He is saying, "Watch." "Be on the lookout; know that God is in control regardless of how dismal or bleak life may seem to you." The Destiny of man rests with God. He knows our desires, He knows our needs, He knows all about us regardless of who we are. And God cares to have each one be His child.

(Illustration of Warner Sallman & miraculous recovery from Tuberculosis)

In 1917 a young artist was told by his doctor, "You have tuberculosis of the lymph glands. Without surgery I believe you have about three months to live." That young man left the doctor's office in a daze. He was concerned about the young singer who had recently become his bride, and the for the baby soon to be born. When he walked into their house ~~his~~ and told his wife the sad news, she said, "We will pray and thank God for the three months. We will ask Him to use us to the limit and if He will mercifully give us more time, we shall be grateful for it." And so they knelt together and prayed. A wonderful healing took place and the young man never needed the surgery. For many years he remained in good health and lived to paint what has probably become the best known picture of Jesus Christ the world has ever known. His name was Warner Sallman, and he painted what is called, "Sallman's Head of Christ."

God is in control regardless of the circumstances of life. Solomon came to this conclusion, but he wasn't privileged to see the complete fulfillment of God's love through Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we can know God's fulfilling love. Do you know that your so called "Destiny" is a part of God's plan. As small and insignificant as anyone of us may seem, God knows each of us by name. He cares for you. He loves you. Accept that love today, right now! Build your life and your home on that foundation which is Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 15, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolyte: Wendy Norman

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 322 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) Eternal Father, we want you to love us; but we have not yet learned how to love each other, even those who are as close to us as our own families. We are quick to see another's faults, but we are insensitive to their feelings. We hear others speak, but we do not listen to the deeper meanings which underline their words. We pass by those who carry heavy burdens of worry we could share, and we pay no attention. We are deaf and blind, careless and selfish. Forgive us Father, for our unnumbered sins; and teach us to love others in the true spirit of our Lord Jesus. Amen.
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 62 "Sun of My Soul"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.
Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Anthem: "Lord, I Sing A Song Of Joy"
Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12: 1-8
Sermon: "Plan A: Coping"
*Invitational Hymn No. 606 "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction)

*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The Campbell Family have placed the beautiful flowers on the altar in memory of Harvey Campbell.
Jeanne Snyder will greet our members and friends at the door this morning.

Ushering today will be done by members of the Youth Group. Attendance last Sunday was 169 with 31 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Kelly Mangel and Megan Hewis.

Helen Riemer and Bonnie Gannon will be visiting the hospital this week.

*Hospitalized: Charlie Penar in BMH

SUNDAY - 5:30 Junior Youth group meets

7:00 Youth Group meets

Bible Study in the Undercroft is cancelled because of the movie.

WEDNESDAY - Change in the date of practice for the choirs. Youth at 6, Chancel Choir at 7, Cantata at 8.

*LET'S GO TO THE MOVIE tonight at 7:00 P.M. the Billy Graham movie "Cry From the Mountain" will be shown in the Sanctuary. We hope that you will come and bring along a friend or two. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be taken for the rental of the movie.

*Funeral Service for Ken Weitzel will be held at 2:00 P.M. today from Young's Funeral Home. - *SYMPATHY TO FAMILY*
CRAFT HELPERS are needed for Vacation Bible School. If you would like to help, please see LuAnn Janicki our VBS director or Craft chairman Dick Mangel. Also pre-registration for VBS will be held May 22nd and June 5th before and after the church service.

*The new Daily Bread booklets are now in the Narthex. Please take one and use this in your daily routine. *9 BOOK BACK*
Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
OF SAGAMORE**

June 7, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

**HYMN-----It Is No Secret-----#581

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----He Touched Me-----#628

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

SERMON: "Plan A: Coping"

**INVITATIONAL HYMN----Rescue The Perishing----#661

**BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

** Please stand

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
OF THE WEEK.....**

- * **June 14, 1998:** Youth Group Meeting! 6 - 8 PM
Basement of church
- * **June 14, 1998:** Communion Services - Worship Service.
- * **June 27, 1998:** Strawberry Festival - Anyone with an Ice Cream Freezer please see Joann or Mable.
- * Pre-registration forms for Vacation Bible School goes to JoAnn or Joyce.
- * Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

June 8-----Carol Bailey
June 11-----Bill Morgan
June 13-----Joe Abel

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

June 7-----Ernest & Priscilla Hill
June 9-----Raymond & Cindy Fisher
June 11-----Gene & Sis Hayes

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

DON'T LET GOD TAKE THE
BACK SEAT OR SECOND
BEST THIS SUMMER!

READ
LARGE & FAMILY
SUE - OPERATOR
GENE
BENJAMIN
LA PAUL & FAMILY
V.B.S.
UNSTABLE SIS
THOMAS

VS 2=YOUTH AGE OF DAWN LITE, OLD AGE
TWILITE GLOOM-SUN/RISE, SET-MOON AGE
VS 3A=HANDS/ARMS WEAKN-PROTEC LK GARD
OF PALAC, SHAK OLD AGE
VS 3B=LEGS/KNEES BENT=OSTEOPOSIS, MEN
SHRINK, BOWD LEGS
VS 3C=GRINDERS=TEETH, NO DENTIST THEN &
LOSE TEETH, NO CHEW
VS 3D=EYES BGIN LOSE SITE-CATARACTS
VS 4A=MOUTH DISTORT BCUZ NO TEETH
VS 4B=LITL NOIS FR/CHEW BCUZ SOFT FOOD
VS 4C=LITL NOIS WAKN LITE/ELDRLY SLEEP
VS 4D=LOSS OF HEAR, QUALTY MUSIC GCNE
VS 5A=FEAR OF FALL-(CONWAY STEPS)
VS 5B=ALMOD TREE WHIT BLOOM-HAIR FLDR
VS 5C=INEFFECTIV BCUZ VITALTY GON, SLOW
GAIT

VS 5D=MAN GOES 2ETERNL HCME & MOURN

VS 6A=SPARK OF LIF SNAPS LK FLVR CORB HOLD LAMP UP
VS 6B=GOLDN BOWL-BRAIN DETECTORAT
VS 6C=FAILING HART, RESERVOIR OF BLUD FLC WEN HART STOPS
VS 7A=CIRCULATORY SYSTM BRK DWN - VEINS ARTERYS
VS 7B=SOL ATTEMPT ANYONE SHUT CUM 2TH/L BY 2MANY YRS HAV PASS &
LIF ABL 2H - FULLY & COMPLETELY
HE CLZ MAN & LK OF DECEASE & STRAHS OF OLD AGE
(BACK TO PAGE 1NF)

(Liluz girl & grandmother getting by real)

analogy 2decaying/unprotected house:

vs 2 failing of body members
vs 3 hands & arms weakened
vs 3b legs & knees rotter
vs 4 teeth lose ability chew-cuz they R few
vs 4a eyes spin place site
vs 4b mouth is distordd buzz of lak of teeth
vs 4c litl nois, chew soft food, baby food
vs 4d least not nois awaken-ben seized in nose
vs 5 qualitative music elud him
vs 5a fear of his stumbling
vs 5b white hair, old age
vs 5c slow gait of eldrly
vs 5d vitality is gone

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

vs 6 heart go etrnal some literally
vs 6a internal card misintegrate
vs 6b brain deteriorat
vs 6c renal malfunction flz w/ heart
vs 7 circulatory system break dwn

(Liluz man/woman says I'm kind of "D")

(Liluz father & son) Ap, dotti hav a ar in crown

SCRIP: ECC 12:1-2; SERMON: "PLAN A: COPING"

(Liluz LITL GIRL & AGED GRANDMA AETR FUBERL OF CTR GRAMMA)

K SOL MAY WEI HAV THCT G 4GOTN HIM LATR YRS
AFTN HRTIUS REFLEC CAM CONCL IT HEY WHO HAD 4GOTN GOD
IN BUK "ECC" SOL BGAN SERCH 2FIND ANSRS 2LIF
HIS 3RCH 4MEAN/PURPOSE GIV CONCLUSIN LIF VANITY/MEANINGLESS
1 DISCOVER MANY THING MEN STRIV4 2FITE OVR MEAN NUTH WEN LIF
CUM 2 CLOSE
CHAP 12 1C SUMMATIN ALL HAD WHITTN IN CTR 11 CHAPS.

VS 1 THIS FIRST PART OF THIS SUMMATIN

SOL BCIN CHAP W/ADVIC 2YNG THIS SIMLAR CHAP 11:9 - (READ)

(TIME MAN KIS FLEBYBOAT BCUZ "NO START ON TIME")

(LIFE STATISTICS OF YOUTH & SALVATION)

XPIAN BRENES SIGN: SCHOOL SHOOTINGS: WHEN WIL UR TEENAGE B ON

SUNDAY MORNING?

EXAMPLE: T-BALL, LITL LEAG, SOCCOR, BASK BAL, ETC SUNDAY PRACTIC

VS 1A-A PATTERN WH/WHUR START WEN YNG

REMEMBR=SCOR W/SPCCL MEANING, A CAL 2DECISIV ACTIN

1 SAMUEL 1:19 =EYPL EXAMPL OF GOD "REMEMBERING" HANNAH & PROMISE
WAS NOT, "OH YRS, HANNAH I COMPLETELY 4GOT U," INSTEAD IT WAS GOD
TAKING DECISIV ACTIN & MAK POSIBL SHE GET PREG & HAV SON ASKD FOR

SOL SAY YNG THC CHUD TAK DECISIV ACTIN 2WARD GOD

SEVRAL REASNS 4THIS: G CREATR OF ALL & G IS THER CREATR
TIME HAS WAY SLIP AWAY & MAY CUM TIME WEN CANOT TURN TO CREATR
SOL CUD SAY THIS BCUZ YRS SLIPBY HIM & FND SELF IN BATTL TO
UNPRT WAT 2DO W/LIF SINCE HAD TURNED FR/GOD

THEN SOL PTS OUT GRAPHIC WAY LIF GOES ON & OLD AGE HAS WAY CREEP

UP ON INDIVIDUAL

ANALOGY THAT OF DECAY/UNPROTECTD HCUS = PAGE - 2

(BREAKDOWN OF VER 2-6)

(LILUZ REMARKS HUSBAND MAKES ON 50th WEDING ANIVERSARY)

SOL SAYS CUM 2TH/L WHIL U STII HAV ALL UR FACULTYS

VS 2-THIS SUMMATIN - LIV CERTIN YRS, AGE IF LUCKY, THEN DIE

VS 3-SOL GAVE ALL OF THIS HAD NO MEANING

TH/HAL PT HERE IS THAT SPIRIT GC BAK 2GOD & HIS DEDUCTIN IS

A DECECH MDS GET ET W/GOD BL IT TOO LATE

(Liluz LITL GIRL, LUKEMIA, LEAD PATH 2 CHRIST, GET STAP IN CROWN)

JS SMD "LITL CHILL SHAL LEAD THEM" - SIMPL FAITH OF CHIL

CHILDREN NOT SOPHISTICATD LK ADULTS, JUS OPEN HARTS & LET JS

SPEAK TO THEM

SOL NO KNC BOUT JS AS ULTIMATE PHLFL OF GOD'S PLAN,

BUT DID KNOTRU RELATSHIP W/GODONLY POSIBL WEN PERSON CUM 2GOD

AND TH/YNG TH/BETTR TO HAV THAT RELATSHIP

HE SFEM KNO HA PASS YR MAK MOR DIFFICULT 2CUM 2TH/LORD

HE HAD HARTN WIG HART 2GOD'S INSTRUCTINS & KNU FIRST HAND BOUT

CHLY U KNO 4CHRT IF HAV ACPT XP AS SAVIOR IF UNSUR, 2DAY TH/TIME

REMEMBR=VS 7 - NOW IS TH/DAY OF SALVATIN, REDEDICATIN

"Plan A: Coping"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

(Illustration of little girl and aged grandma after funeral of other grandma)

A five-year-old girl was riding in a car with her grandmother following the funeral of her other grandmother. "Where did Grandma go?" she asked. "We believe she went to be with God," the grandmother replied.

"How old was she?" "She was 80 years-old."

"How old are you?" "82." The little girl thought about this for a moment and then said, "I hope God hasn't forgotten you."

King Solomon may well have thought that God had forgotten him in his latter years. But after a period of serious reflection he came to the conclusion that it was he who has forgotten God. Had he lived all of his life seeking to live for God as he first started out, his life would not have taken the twist which it did.

In his book entitled, "Ecclesiastes" Solomon began a search to find the answers to life. He searched for meaning and purpose and after looking at many things of life he had concluded that much of life was "vanity" as he called it, or meaningless. He discovered that many of the things men strive for, and fight over, mean nothing when life is coming to a close. So it is in this 12th chapter that he now comes to the first part of his summation of all that he had written and said in the other 11 chapters.

Solomon begins this 12th chapter with a bit of advice, and he says, (Read verse 1).

His advice is to the young. He had a similar thought in the 11th chapter in the 9th verse, (read this verse). What he is saying here is that youth is a time to enjoy life to its fullest. In no way is Solomon advocating that young people should do anything they desire to make them happy. Instead, he is telling them to do the things that are right since God will stand in judgement of those things which are done, which are ~~illegal~~ dishonest, or unethical.

So he reminds young people, "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth." It is a pattern which should start while young. But the word "remember" is not just to recall to mind a certain something, it is a call to decisive action. An example of the use of this word is found in 1 Samuel chapter 1. Hannah was unable to have children and she asked the Lord to give her a son which she would dedicate to God. In the 19th verse of chapter 1, we read, (Read this verse). How did God remember her? He wasn't saying, "Oh yes, Hannah, I completely forgot about you." God remembered her by taking decisive action and making it possible for her to become pregnant and have the son Samuel which she had asked of God. Solomon is saying that the young people should take this decisive action ~~in~~ toward God. He is saying this for several reasons. He is pointing out that God is the creator of all; that God is their creator; and that time has a way of slipping by and there may come a time when it is too late to turn to the Creator. Solomon can say this with complete certainty because the years have slipped him by and he found himself in a battle to understand what to do with his life since he had turned away from God.

The following verses point out in a graphic way how life goes on and how age has a way of creeping up on an individual. The analogy he uses is that of a decaying and unprotected house.

Verse 2, is the failing of the bodily members.

Verse 3, "the watchmen of the house tremble," the hands and arms are weakened.

Verse 4, 5B, mighty men stoop - legs are bent and knees totter

Verse 3C, Grinding ones stand idle - teeth lose ability to chew, because they are few.

Verse 3D, Those who look through windows grow dim - the eyes begin to lose their sight.

Verse 4A, doors are shut - Mouth is distorted because of lack of teeth

Verse 4B, sound of the grinding is low - little noise chewing baby food, soft food.

Verse 4C, one will arise at the sound of a bird - the least amount of noise will awaken an elderly sleeper - Ken Weitzel and visit on Wednesday, telling of woman screaming and awakening him and he couldn't get back to sleep.

Verse 4D, and all the daughters of song - the qualities of music are eluding him

Verse 5A, men are afraid of the high place & terror on road - Fear of heights and stumbling.

Verse 5B, Almond tree blossoms - White blossoms, white hair, of old age

Verse 5C, grasshopper - slow gait of elderly

Verse 5D, caperberry is ineffective - vitality is gone

Verse 5E, man goes to his eternal home - literally!

Verse 6A, silver cord - spinal cord

Verse 6B, golden bowl - brain deteriorates.

Verse 6C, pitcher by well - the failing heart, well-reservoir of blood, flows when heart stops

Verse 6E, wheel at cistern - circulatory system breaks down - veins, arteries

Thus Solomon is advocating that anyone should come to the Lord before too many years have passed and life is able to lived fully and completely. He was an old man telling of the problems and setbacks of old age.

(Illustration of man and wife celebrating 50th wedding anniversary)

A man and woman were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. The woman was very hard of hearing. During the celebration the husband got up to say a few words about their long married life. He said to her, "After 50 years, I have found you to be tried and true."

Not hearing what he said, his wife asked, "What did you say?"

Speaking very loudly he shouted, "After 50 years of marriage I have found you to be tried and true."

To which his wife answered, "Humph, after 50 years of marriage, I'm tired of you too."

Solomon says to come to the Lord in the youthful years of life before it is too late.

Then Solomon winds up this portion of Scripture by saying simply, "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. "Vanity of vanities," says the preacher, "all is vanity."

Solomon explains that old age creeps up on a person, everything seems to become decayed and decaying. And at last, the body dies and is buried, but the spirit which was the individual goes back to God who made it. And all of this he points out gives life the appearance of meaninglessness. But the real point he makes is that the spirit goes back to God. His deduction is that a person must come to the Lord before it is too late.

(Illustration of Father accepting Christ, so his daughter would have a star in her crown)

The simple faith of a little child. But Jesus taught that "a little child shall lead them."

It takes the simple uncomplicated faith of a child to be adult enough to come to the Lord.

Young children aren't hung up on the sophisticated things that adults have. They don't try to think through a lot of "What ifs?" They open their hearts and let Jesus speak to them. This is what Solomon was writing. He didn't know about Jesus as the fulfillment of God's ultimate plan. But he did know that a true relationship with God was only possible when the person seeking that relationship did it in the flower of youth. In his wisdom, he knew that each

passing year made the soul that much more resistant to the things of God. After all, he had hardened his heart to God's instructions, so he knew from first-hand experience. Jesus extends the invitation to accept Him as Savior. As you think about that, only you can know for certain whether you have done this or not. If you haven't, perhaps God is speaking to you today to make that commitment. He may be speaking to you to rededicate your life. And if that message is coming to you, regardless of your age, answer it. Accept Christ today and don't let another day pass before you make your life right with Him. Will you answer Him today? Remember, the Creator not only in the days of your youth, but at whatever age you are. Time passes and one day, we know not when, "The dust will return to the ~~ground~~ earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it."

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 22, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Megan Hewis and Nicole Merrison

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 240 "Fairiest Lord Jesus"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Loving Father, who gives completely of His love to us, forgive our selfishness. We aren't intentionally indifferent to others. It's just that we are so caught up in our own lives, our jobs, our families, we look at the world around us from down deep in our own little worlds. We do care, but we don't take the time or the trouble to respond in love to the needs around us. Strengthen us to assume the burden of caring. Enrich our lives so we can know the joy of others. Forgive us our short-sightedness so we can try again. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 466 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "The Savior Is Waiting"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12: 9-14

Sermon: "Plan B Becomes Plan A"

*Invitational Hymn No. 220 "I've Found a Friend,
O Such a Friend"

*Closing Chimes

*Benedict)

*Postlude

+ + + + +

*Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Campbell have placed the flowers on the altar in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. James Christy. Mrs. Millie Wachsmuth will greet our members and friends at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Dick Mangel, Dick Dally, George Pflugh and Don Kingsley.

Attendance last Sunday was 111 with 5 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Deb Melton.

Marge Smiley and Shirley Thompson will be visiting the hospital this week.

Sunday - Junior Youth will meet at 5:30 P.M.

Youth Group meets at 7:00 P.M.

Bible Study at 7:00 P.M.

> Tuesday - 7:00 P.M. choir practice for Men only.

> VBS pre-registration begins today. Please take a moment before or after the service and register your child or children for Vacation Bible School. This will also be held again on June 5th. If you know of anyone from ages 2 through adult that you would like to bring, register them also. Vacation Bible School is June 20-24th from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, see LuAnn Janicki.

> We will be honoring the veterans of this congregation next Sunday. This will be a special service for our veterans and we hope you will make every effort to attend. We have assisting in the service, Cadets from the JROTC corp at the High School, and a Ceremonial Squad from the Moniteau District. Immediately following the service we will have a luncheon in the hall. This is open to everyone attending. The Hospitality Committee is hosting this and they need some help. They need cakes and jello salads, so if you can bring one in, please let Helen Riemer know. Also, those veterans who sent in the information sheet, we hope you will be here!!!

MONDAY EVENING - 7:00 P.M. Property Committee meeting!!!

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
OF SAGAMORE**

June 14, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LINK WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

**HYMN-----It's The Family of God-----#543

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----I Could Never Out Love the Lord-----#452

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

SERMON: "Plan B Becomes Plan A"

Lord's Supper

**INVITATIONAL HYMN-----Amazing Grace-----#107

**BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

** Please stand

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
OF THE WEEK.....**

COMMUNITY INVITE

ALL

YOUTH GROUP MEETING AFTER

- * **June 14, 1998:** Youth Group Meeting | 6 - 8 PM
Basement of church.
- * **June 14, 1998:** Communion Services - Worship Service.
- * **June 27, 1998:** Strawberry Festival - Anyone with an Ice Cream Freezer please see Joann or Mable.
- * Pre-registration forms for Vacation Bible School goes to JoAnn or Joyce.
- * Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.
- * The **YOUTH GROUP** would like to thank those who sponsored them by buying Auntie Ann Coupons.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

June 17-----Mona Branan
June 19-----Mary Allshouse

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

June 19-----Keith & Joanne Fairman

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

"Anxiety in a man's heart
weighs him down,
but a good word makes
him glad"

WEATHER

LARRY AND ...
(SUNDAY SCHOOL)

BOB - ANTHONY

JUDY - ...

DEBORAH

... / JEAN

ED

ELIZABETH

ISABEL - ...

VBS - ... MUSIC

Proverbs 12:25

SORTI: EOT 12:9-14; SERMON: "PLAN B BECOMES PLAN A"

(LINA JANIE TALK ROSE FURNAC, CYRREBY BY PARISHNER, THOT DACTR)
THEIR MESSAGES ALL HINTS MANY TIMES THINGS NO TALK OUT RT
(LINA BEN HURKIE, BANGUET, ZACOMEN & ALVIOE HE FOLLOW)

I'M SUP NOG US HAV TRYLED DO SMITH W/GUD INTENTS & ENL NO WORKOUT
AS NTICIPATE

X OL HAD SERCH 4REAL MEAN OF LIF AS TONER LIF IN OLD AGE
KNU VERY SOON WUD PASS ON & DESIR 2KNO WAT CUD DO 2GET BAK ON
TRAK AGIN

SEEMD AS THO LIF HAD PAS HIM BY QUITE FEW THEZ LACTE YRS
IN PURSU, DISMUR BY THIS & ZHELPE IN SERCH PUR CHOTS IN WRITING
LOGICLY/RATINALLY PUT 4TH ARGUMENT, PIEC BY PIEC

HE THK EXPERIENS OF LIF, LK AT POSSESSING, THEN DETERMIN WAT HIS
THINKING & ATTITUDE WAS 2WARD LIF & FR/ALL THIS WROT ECCLESIASTES
MUCH WAT HE SAW HE CAL "VANITY" OF MEANINGLESSNESS

THIS WAS CHAP IS 2PT SUMATIN OF ALL HIS LIF

WE LKD LAS WK 1st PART & CONSIST OF AGTN PROCES & HOW YNG PEO
SHUD COM TO GOD IN VIGOR OF LIF

NOW THIS NECTON HE BGIN BY SAY - READ VERSE 9

THEZ THOZ LK THOZ WORDS & SAY SOL BOAST OR BRAG WAT HAD DUN

BUT IF LK CLOGLY CAN DISCOUNT THAT THINK ROUN TH/OLD MAN

FIRST: NO SAY, "I AM WISE MAN" HE SAY BCUZ TH/PREACHR-(HIMSELF)

WISH HE STILL HAD WISDOM 2TH/PEOPL

THAT NO BOAST IT SIMPLY RELAT WAT GUD LDRS SHUD DO, PASS KNOWIN
TO TH/PEOPL

VS 10-SOL GAV OVR 3M PROVERBS SORTIP TEL US

VS 10-THIS ALSO SHO GUD LDRSHIP - SEEK IMPART TRUTH/KNOWLEDG

VS 11-SOL NOW GIVS ILUS WAT WISDM/KNOWLEDG DUEZ

GODS/TALES BOTH TOOLS OF SHEPHERDS

GODS/KNOWIN ROLE USED 2POK RELUCTANT ANIMALS 2MOVE, CHNG DIRECTIN

NAILD SEE WERE 2KEEP SHEDD TYED SO NO WANDP, GET HURT/LOST/WILD

M RE OF ANGER/TH/KNOWLEDG, WHOZ WHO HAV 2TH/KNOWIN WISE &

THOZ LISTENS WISDM/KNOWLEDG, THEY LK THEZ 2TOOLS

THIS DISPENSATION OF WISDM/KNOWLEDG GIVN BY ONLY ONE SHEP

THAT SHEPHERD IS GOOD HIMSELF, THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

(JS OFKE OF SELF AS GUD SHEPHERD, CIV WISDM/KNOWLEDG FR/GOD)

VS 12-THIS IS A WARNING

MANY, MANY HUKS WER WRIT B4 SOL, & MANY, MANY MORWUDS WRITTN

IT INCUMBANT UPON THOZ WHO SEEK WISDM/KNOWLEDG/DIRECTIN 4LIF,

CHEK ONE WAT READ/STUDIED

TENDENCY THEN & NOW, CONSULT SO CALL "AUTHORTY" IN HUKS, & FOLLOW

THEIR WISDM, BUT OFTN DUN BY EXCLUE WAT GOD HAV 2SAY ON MATTR

ANYTH WRITTN, BUT 4ER AS SCHOLARSHIP MUSB EXAMIN IN LITE OF

SCRIPTUR

MUS ALWAYS ASK-"HOW DUEZ THIS SQUAR W/GOD'S WORD?"

IF FINE IT OKS WAT GUD SEZ, THROW IT OUT

VS 13-SOL NOW BGIN FINAL SUMATIN W/ TWO PARTS

VS 13B-"FEAR GOD"

VS 13B-"FEAR GOD" - THIS 1ST STEP BECOMES PLAN A

PREVIOUSLY WRITTN WAT/KNOWLEDG/KNOWIN/KNOWIN

VS 13B-THIS MORE 16 TIMES BAK DUEZ, & STIMES ECCLESIASTES

WROT WAT IS "V-A-W-R-A-V" & MEANS 2B HAV IN REVERENCE, 2HONOR

THOZ THOZ HAV IN REY, WAT PERSON IS AT BGIN OF SERCH 4REAL

PLAN OF LIF

GO WUD IMPART ANYTH HARMFUL/FALS 2ANY WHO SEEK HIM

1 WE REVERENC GOD, WE SOIN 2LUV HIM AS WE SHUD

VS 13C-GODS DEMANDS THIS PEO ALWAYS BIL SHUD FOLG HIS COMMANDS

WEN G REVEAL SELF ULT IN JS XP HE SPOK FOLGWS SAME MANNER

JOHN 14 AT LAST SUPPER - (TURN TO THIS) *John 14:15*

VS 14-ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD IS TH/FINAL THING OF VALU IN FA PERGNS

LIF

SOL HAD SERCH 4REAL MEAN OF LIF

HE START OUT W/HIS PLAN - "PLAN A"

BUT 4ER IN HIS EXPERS OF LIF, ALL HE HAD, WAT BIL GIVN,

GUD CONCLUDIN G SUPERCE PLAN "A" & REPLAC WITH PLAN "B"

ALL ALONG, ALL THRU LIF IT IS G'S PLAN, G'S DESIGN

ALL HE WAS 2DO WAS BIL IN G'S CARE, SEEK W/WHCI HART, SOUL, MIND &

FOR THE BAK 4ER OF ALL

VS 14B-THOZ 1ST & 2ND OF G & HIS RETURNES, & ALL THEZ TH WILB ADDED

IT IS G FIRST, THEN ALSE, NUTH LESS

BUT GOD FIRST IN UR LIF & HE WIL GIV U TH/RICHES HIS KINGDOM

4 MONT NEED MONY, POWER OR

POSSESSIN FOR LIF

ALL I NEED IS GOD & HE WIL

PROVIDE

4ER ALL HIS YRS OF ACUMUL

WELTH/POWER & THINGS OF LIF,

SOL FINLY CAN CONCL THIS WAS

UNTIL

TH "VANITY" OF MEANINGLESS

TH TH/SCOPE IS SIMPLY

GOD.

DO U KNC THA 2DAY??

IS G AT TH/CENTER OF UR LIF?

CAN U HONESTLY SAY NUTHIN

4S MATTR??

CLAIM HIM AS TH/LORD OF UR

LIF THEN XP & LET HIM ADD

ALL OF TH/THINGS HE WIL

GIV U OF HIS RICHES IN

GLORY

CHEK TO HIM TODAY

JOHN 14:15, and 21 - (READ THEZ VGS)

3/

WAT WER HIS COMMANDMENTS?

JS IDENTIFIED IT BY SAYING:

FIRST: "THOU SHALT LOV TH/L THY G W/ALL THY HART, & W/ALL THY
SOUL, & W/ALL THY MIND.

THIS IS TH/FIRST & GRT COMANDMENT

SECOND: "THOU SHALT LUV THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF"

TH/WHOLE DUTY OF MAN IS TO LUV GOD

ANYONE CAN DO THIS

IT DUNNT REQUOR MATERIAL POSESINS, OR WELTH, OR POWR

IT SIMPLY LUVING HIM & THIS CAN BEST B SHOWN BY LIVING FOR HIM

(ILUS OF CHRIST SHOWN IN A MISSIONARY'S LIF, & GRAVE)

THIS IS AN EXAMPL OF TH/INFLUENC ONE PERSN CAN HAV ON OTHR PEO-
PLE'S LIVS

CAN THEY SAY THAT OF US????

THEN SOL CLOSES HIS BUK BY TH/WORDS WE READ IN TH/LAST VS
(TURN BAK TO CHAPTER 12:14)

"Plan B Becomes Plan A"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

(Illustration of janitor talking about furnace, overheard by parishioner who thought pastor)
The janitor of a church was speaking to someone about the furnace. He was overheard by one of the church members who thought he was talking about the minister. What he heard was, "The blower still works, but the fire has gone out."

There are misconceptions in all sorts of things, and many times things just do not come out quite like they are intended.

(Illustration of Edward Muskie and banquet, seated between two women and advice given to him.)
Edmund Muskie tells of a time he was invited to speak at a banquet and he was to be seated between two leading ladies of the community. He didn't quite know how to initiate a conversation so he asked a man who coached him on speaking. The coach said, "Turn to the lady on the left and ask if she is married, then ask if she has any children." He said she would pick up the conversation from there. Then he advised him to turn to the lady on the right and do the same thing. Muskie thought that sounded like a good idea and decided to try it.

The next day he came looking for his coach with fire in his eyes and told him it didn't work at all. He said he turned to the lady on the left and asked her if ~~she was married~~ ~~and she said she was not~~. Then I asked her if she had any children and she didn't speak the rest of the evening. So I decided to talk to the lady on my right and I asked her if she had any children and she replied that she did. And then I asked her if she was married."

I'm sure that all of us have tried to do something with very good intentions and have found that somehow or other things just didn't work out as anticipated.

King Solomon had been searching for the real meaning of life as he pondered it in his old age. He knew that in the not too distant future he would pass on and he wanted to know what he could do to get back on track once again. It seemed like life had passed him by for quite a few of these latter years and he was upset and disturbed by this. To help in that search he put his thoughts in writing. Very logically and rationally he put forth his argument piece by piece. He took the experiences of his life, he looked at all of his possessions, and he determined what his thinking and ~~xxxxxxx~~ attitude toward life was and from all of this he penned the lines of what we call the book of Ecclesiastes. Much of what he saw of life consisted for him as mere "vanity," or meaninglessness.

In the last chapter of this book, chapter 12, he has a two point summation of all of life. We looked at the first part last week and it dealt very much with the aging process and how young people should come to God in the vigor of life. Now he begins by saying, "In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge."

There are those who look at these words and declare that Solomon was boasting or bragging about what he had done. But if you look at these words you can quickly discount that kind of thinking about the old man. First of all he points himself out once again in the third person. He doesn't say, "I am a wise man." Instead it is, "In addition to being a wise man," and then he imparts that he, the preacher also taught the people knowledge. Is that boasting? Certainly not, because knowledge is what any people want from their leaders. That's what leaders are for and if they do not impart knowledge, who will? So he adds, "And he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs."

We are told in Scripture that Solomon gave over 3000 proverbs. And he then tells why he did this by saying, "The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth Correctly," verse 10.

And again, there is nothing wrong with a good leader sharing his insights with his people to better enable them to cope with life and its problems.

Next, Solomon gives the reasons for words of wisdom and knowledge. He says ~~xxx~~, "The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd," verse 11.

Goads, were wooden rods with iron points on them to prod the oxen to make them increase their speed or get into action. Nails were what the shepherds used to fasten their tents. The "One Shepherd," refers to God. All of the wisdom that has come to the people, although it may have been given by men like Solomon, it has come to them from God. God is like the ONE and ONLY Shepherd, leading and directing His people through the wisdom imparted by His servants down through the years. So Solomon comes to his summation, but before he presents his final words he gives a warning and he says, (read verse 12). Many, many books had been written and many, many more were written after Solomon's books. The tendency then was exactly the same as it is today and that is to consult the wisdom imparted by the authors of books ~~xx~~ to the exclusion of God. There is nothing wrong with seeking the wisdom to be found by those who are scholars in certain fields, but when these scholars become the final authority and what they write or declare is accepted over what God has imparted in His Word, then book learning is wrong. Anything that is written, or put forth as scholarship must be held up to the light of Scripture. We must always ask the question, "How does this square with God's Word?" And if it is opposed to what God says, throw it out.

Now Solomon begins his final summation. He says, "The conclusion, when all has been heard is: Fear God," verse 13A.

This is the first of two parts. But it is the very first step a person must take. Solomon wrote of this in his book of Proverbs. In the 1st chapter the 7th verse he says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

And in the 9th chapter the 10th verse he says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Here in both of these instances, it is the Fear of God that brings knowledge and understanding. The word "fear" simply means in the Hebrew, "To revere, to be had in reverence." If God is held in reverence, then that person is at the beginning of his search for the real meaning of life because God does not impart anything that is harmful or false to any who seek Him. If we reverence God, we begin to love Him as we should.

The second part of Solomon's conclusion is, "And keep His commandments, because this applies to every person," verse 13B.

God's demand for His people had always been that they should follow His commandments. When God revealed Himself ultimately and completely in Jesus Christ, He spoke to His followers in the same manner. In John's Gospel, the 14th chapter we read in the 15th verse He said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

And in the 21st verse He says, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and disclose Myself to him."

And what was the commandments that were to be kept? Jesus identified it by saying, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind." And thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The whole duty of man is to love God. Anyone can do this. It doesn't require material possessions, or wealth, or power. It is simply loving Him, and this can best be shown by living for Him.

(Illustration of Phocas as a Christian example)

In the 4th century a Christian named Phocas lived in Asia Minor. Hundreds of travelers to the city passed by his door. They would stop for a while in his garden on their journey and Phocas would talk to them of Christ. Then came the Diocletian persecution, and Phocas was named as a Christian. Men were sent to kill him on the spot. As they neared his home, one hot day, Phocas saw them coming and invited them to share the cool of his garden. "What is your business?" asked Phocas. One replied, "We seek a Christian named Phocas for execution. Do you know him?" "I know him quite well," said Phocas. "He is quite near; let us attend to it in the morning."

That night Phocas sat thinking in his garden. He could escape or hide with other Christians. But the others would be endangered; and he would be jeopardizing the lives of the soldiers who were ordered to execute him. He asked himself, "Should I run? Should these soldiers forfeit their lives for mine? My Lord did not run."

By dawn he had dug his own grave. He awakened his guests and told them, "I am Phocas."

The soldiers refused to kill him, but he calmly told them to think of themselves and their dear ones. They had their duty and he had nothing but love in his heart for them. A sword

~~This is an extreme example of the love of Christ. This is perhaps not something~~
swept and the blood of Phocas mingled with the garden he loved.
each of us.

This is an extreme example of the love of Christ. This is perhaps not ~~something~~ each Christian may be called upon to do. But it exhibits the love Jesus was talking about and it exhibits the conclusion that Solomon had arrived at. In his quest to find the true meaning of life, Solomon had looked at all that he had, all of his experiences and he came to the conclusion that his original intent was faulty. What had started out as his plan, "Plan A," was superseded by God's plan, "Plan B." All along it was God's plan, God's design. And all he had to do was to rest in God's care, seek Him with his heart and soul and mind, and God would take care of all.

Jesus summed it up best when He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

It is God first. Nothing else, nothing less. Put God first in your life and He will give you the riches of His kingdom. You don't need money, or power, or possessions for life. All you need is God and He will provide. After all of his years of accumulating wealth and power and all of the things of life with his own strength and power, Solomon came to the ultimate conclusion that it was futile. It was meaningless because the secret was simply GOD.

Do you know that today? Is God at the center of your life? Can you honestly say that nothing else matters? Claim Him as the Lord of your life through Christ and let Him add all of the things He will give you of His riches in glory.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor May 29, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
+ + + + +
SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
*Ascription
*Call to Worship:
Pastor - Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
and the people whom He hath chosen for His
own inheritance.
People - Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is
a reproach to any people.
Pastor - If thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice
of the Lord thy God, the Lord thy God will set
thee on high above all the nations of the earth.
All - God says, "If My people, which are called by My
name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and
seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways;
then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive
their sin, and will heal their land."
*Processional Hymn No. 690 "America, the Beautiful"
*Posting of the Colors
*Pledge of Allegiance
*Invocation
*Presentation of New Flags to the Congregation
*Star Spangled Banner No. 688
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
*Salute To Our Veterans
Anthem: "God Bless America"
Scripture: 1 Samuel 30: 9-20
Sermon: "Baggage Watchers"
*Closing Hymn "God Bless America" (printed on bulletin)
*Tape READ DECEASED VETERAN NAMES
*Benediction
*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mrs. Lenora Stanley in memory of Robert.

"GOD BLESS AMERICA"
God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above
From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans
white with foam
God bless America, My home sweet home,
God bless America, My home sweet home.
+ + + + +
Mrs. Lenora Stanley will greet our members and guests at
the door this morning.
Ushers for today are Marge Smiley, Deb Melton, Genny
Nohach and Lucille Tack.
Nursery will be provided today by Dave Brinker and Mike Kay.
Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 10 visitors.
Paul Campbell and Bill Pflugh will be visiting the hosp-
ital this week.
SUNDAY - no youth group
THURSDAY - Choir practices need a full choir. We are all
urged to attend. This is not only preparation for the
Sunday services, but for the Day of Praise Festival on
June 12th. Please make the effort to attend.
This week the Pastor and 4 laymen from the congregation
will be attending the Moody Pastors Conference. If you
have a concern or need, please get in touch with Ginny
at home or at the church office.
JUNE 4th CAR WASH - the Youth Group will be holding a car
wash at Arby's at the Clearview Mall, beginning at
10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!
UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:
June 5th - Congregational meeting immediately following
the service in Rehoboth Hall. We need you
there, so please make the effort to attend.
June 6th - Benevolence Committee meeting at 7:00 P.M.
VBS meeting at 7:30 P.M. We need all helpers
and teachers to attend.
June 8th - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.
We wish to extend a warm welcome and a thank you to those
assisting with the service today. The Butler High
School Junior ROTC Color Guard, Moniteau Ceremonial
Squad, and Senator Tim Shaffer for his gift of flags to
St. Paul's.
Have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
OF SAGAMORE**

May 31, 1998
PASTOR RALPH LINK WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am
 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

****HYMN-----To God Be The Glory-----#363**

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

****DOXOLOGY**

INFANT DEDICATION: Today, we welcome into our midst one of God's very special little miracles, and we dedicate him to the Lord. Nathaniel Thomas Lingenfelter is the infant son of John & Jennifer Lingenfelter who was born prematurely on March 27, 1998.

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----It Is Well With My Soul-----#495

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 30:9-20

SERMON: "Baggage Watchers"

****INVITATIONAL HYMN---Have Thine Own Way Lord--#400**

****BENEDICTION**

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire

**** Please stand**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
OF THE WEEK.....**

- **June 5 - 6, 1998:** Revival... Please plan to renew your faith in JESUS! Ed & Janet McDaniel. Friday 7:30 PM Saturday 7:00 PM.
- **June 6, 1998:** Family Banquet
- Pre-registration forms for Vacation Bible School goes to JoAnn or Joyce.
- Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.
- The Youth Group are selling Auntie Anne Pretzel Coupons for \$2.25. Please sponsor your Youth. This is the last day to get your coupons please see Mona or Joyce today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

June 1-----George Mikeska

June 6-----Wayne Stear

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

When you're lonely,
... we wish you LOVE.
When you're down,
... we wish you JOY
When you're troubled,
... we wish you PEACE.
When things look empty,
... we wish you HOPE.

... Source unknown

*1. VALITA TOSHADE
AFRICAN - ENTIGUALP
BERNARD
HENRIETH*

SCRIP: 1 SAM 30:9-20; SERMON: "BAGGAGE WATCHERS"

(ILUS KITCHEN MOTT & PAINTING IN THE LOUVRE, PARIS)
HCA OFT THINK MENIAL TASK AS "LITIN SERVICE"
SUCH CHORS R 2B GETIN OVR/DWN WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSTAL
THAT WAY CAN GET ON W/BIGGR/BETTR THINGS OF LIP-THINGS VALUE
EN, PORT JN MILTON PEN LINES:

"...EY ALSO SERV WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT."
WOOLY REC NO STID BY SIMPL SERV, WE R STIR BY POMP/CERMCNY & WE
THINK SIMPL SERV IS SMTH 2B ENDURED, A NECESSARY EVIL

K DAVID DROVD THIS THEORY WRONG
(BAGGP R DAV FLEE SAUL, FITE W/PHILS & WHIL ABSENT A-MAIKITES
BURN 2IKLAG; TAK WIVS & OTHERS; DAV RETURN & SET GO AFTR THEM;
600 MEN, 400 WITH 200 FATIGUE STAY BHIN THIS WHEP SCRP BGIN)
DAV GET WIVS/EXSENE/FAMILY BAK & THEN WE READ

VS 21-HR 34 LITTE TH/BAGG WATCHRS IF U WIL
LET KNO THEY JUS AS IMPORT AS THOZ WHO WENT IN2BATTL
VS 22-NC RISK LIVS LTK US -(SONG OF DEVIL - JELOSY, HATRED, ETC.)
VS 23-G BROT BOUT VICTRY, SAVD THER LIVS, LIVS OF WIVS, FAMLYS
VS 24-BOTH FITERS/BAGG WATCHRS EQUAL IMPOTANC
DAV EXPL THIS VS 24B*(HEAD THIS)

IT SO IMPORT DAV MADE LAW - WE 25* (READ THIS)
WE HAV TENDENCY DO THIS, GLOREY VETS, OVRLOOK TH/BEST
SHUD HONOR VETS, BUT SMTH 2B SED 4THOZ WHO WATCH TH/BAGG
(ILUS RECAL HW IL THOZ DEFR 4WORK, 4P, ETC & HOW LK AT)

GOOD ILLUSTRATIN FITS THIS SITUATIN IN TH/LIF OF JS
JOHN 13:3-5

TURN TO JOHN 13, READ & EXPLAIN

VS 3-5-JS ACTS AS ORDINARY SERVANT & WASHES DISCIPLS FEET
VS 12-TESTIN??
VS 13-14- THIS MENIAL TASK, LK DWN ON BGUZ SERV SHUD DO IT
BUT JS DAV WE SHUD WIL PTO
(1 G MINNY LANIER, FLUTE & MINUTE PART OF ORCHESTRA)
MA... TIMEZ THINK WE NO COUNT, BUT ONE CONTRIBUTIN NEEDED
PAUL TEL US JATHEVR DO, TO TH/GLOREY OF GOD
THAT MEAN-WASH DISH, SCUR POTS, MOI FLOORS DO AS THO U R DOING
IT FOR GOD'S INSPECTION

(ILUS NURSE AND INFECTED LEG, "NOT FOR A MILLION DOLLARS")
NOT FOR MONNY, BUT BOUZ OF SERVIC 2TH/LORD SHUD OUR ATTITUD
THUS WE NEED 2HONOR THOZ WHO IN ESSENC R BAGGAGE WATCHERS
(ASK VETERANS TO STAND - RECOGNIZE THEM)

ASK ANYONE WHO WAITED AT HOME FOR LOVED ONE IN SERVICE, OR
WORKED DEFENSE PLANT, MINING OR OTHERS DURING WARS?????
WE APPLAUD YOU WHO HAVE BIN IN ESSENC "BAGGAGE WATCHERS"

EA US HAV TASK 2PERFORM IN OUR LIVS,
WE R CALLD 2R SERV OF OUR SAVICR JESUS CHRIST
BUT THAT DUZNT SAY WE MUS GO REMOT PARTS OW WORL 2SERV

(ILUS BILLY SUNDAY, HYMN "BRITEN TH/CORNER WHER U R")

WE CAN & SHUD SERV RITE WHER WE R 2TH/BEST OF OUR ABILTY
BUT THOZ BHIN SCENES JUS AS IMPORT AS THOZ FRONT LINES

DAVID SUMS IT UP W/WORDS 1 SAMUEL 30:24;

BUT AS HIS PART IS THAT GOETH DWN TO THE BATTLE,

SHALL HIS PART BE THAT TAPRIPTH BY THE STUFF:

THEY SHALL PART ALIKE

IN OTHER WORDS BOTH THOZ WHO SERV IN BATTL, & THOZ WHO ARE
"BAGGAGE WATCHERS" SHAF OF SHUD SHAPE TH/SAME RECOGNITION
IN GOD'S EIGHT

SERV HIM & LIV HIM WHERVR U ARE

"Sugato wa chon!"

[illegible][illegible]

Invocation:

Help us, O God, to love our country. Grant us grace to cherish the ideals which made it possible and have given it eminence among the nations. May the faith of our fathers be our faith. Forgive us our personal and national sins, and endow us with the patriotism that reveals a likeness to Thee in love and righteousness. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Invocation of new flags:

Let the new flags be a symbol of the new life which is being born in our country. Let them be a reminder of the sacrifices which have been made for our freedom and the peace which we have won. Let them be a source of inspiration and courage to all who see them.

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DECEASED VETERANS

Ralph Cooper
George Eichhorn
Frank Meier
Robert Tait
John Custead
Louis Zubik
Robert McClymonds
Rev. Harvey Goodling

Deceased members we honor:

Ralph Cooper
George Eichhorn
Robert Tait
Robert McClymonds
Louis Zubik
Frank Meier
John Custead
Rev. Harvey Goodling

Moniteau Ceremonial Squad

*Chuck McWilliams	U.S. Navy	WW II	USANG
Larry Thompson	U.S. Navy	WW II	deceased
Vic Steinheiser	U.S. Navy	WW II	
Dean Bollinger	U.S. Navy	WW II	
Chuck Ferrer	U.S. Army	WW II	
Tom Colosimo	U.S. Army	Korea	
Pat Isacco	U.S. Army	Korea	
Lloyd Tennies	U.S. Army	Korea (chaplain)	
Don Craig	U.S. Army	Korea	
Gary Donaldson	U.S. Marines	Vietnam	
Rick Carley	U.S. Army	Vietnam	
Gary Fitzingo	U.S. Army National Guard		
Jessica Dilliaman	Moniteau High School - Bugler		
Scott McClimens	Moniteau High School - Bugler		
Red Hedglin	U.S. Army	Vietnam	
Otto Betner		Yugoslavia	

Butler Junior ROTC Color Guard - *Sgt. Richard Colgate

Nechol Orebough
Charlie Deal
Lance Bonnett
Danny Mangel
Todd Rensel

Immediately following the service today we invite each one of you to attend a luncheon in Rehoboth Hall. This is hosted by the church Hospitality Committee in honor of our veterans.

"Baggage watchers"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 30:9-20

(Illustration of motto hanging over a kitchen sink)

I read recently of a woman who had a little motto hanging above her kitchen sink which reads as follows:

"Divine service is conducted here three times daily."

How often do we ever think of menial tasks as being "divine service?" Mostly, such chores are considered as something to get over and done with as quickly as possible ~~in~~ so we can get on with bigger and better things of worth and value.

The English poet John Milton penned the famous lines, "They also serve who only stand and wait!"

~~Mostly~~ Mostly we do not see much glory in simple service. I would venture to say that almost all people are stirred by pomp and ceremony, but think of simple service as a necessary evil to be endured. It was King David of Israel who proved this theory wrong.

It was ~~about~~ toward the end of the reign of King Saul that David actually disproved the theory that menial service is not as important as military or patriotic service. Saul, thinking that David was trying to seize the throne for himself, had sought to kill David. So David in his quest to remain alive and to succeed Saul as King of Israel ~~had~~ fled to the land of the Philistines. These were the hated enemies of the Israelites and they thought it was rather strange that David who was a loyal subject to the King of Israel should join forces with them. But when David proved his valor by fighting for the Philistines he was given a city in which to settle with his family and the families of the 600 men who were with him. This city was named Ziklag. So it was that David and his men had marched off with the Philistines to do battle with Saul and the Israelites. David knew that he had to either fight for the Philistines and seek to overcome Saul and his men, or turn against the Philistines and side with Saul's army. Either choice would have proved a difficult decision to make. But the Philistine leaders had thought this situation through and so they decided to ask David to return to his home and to sit this one out. So David and his men start the journey back to their homes in Ziklag.

So it is that we read in the beginning of this 30th chapter of 1st Samuel, (read verses 1-2). As they approached the city they saw the smoke rising from it, and it could only mean one thing - the city had been set on fire. So we read, (Read verse 3).

As they entered the city they discovered it was deserted and all the people had been carried off captive. This caused David and the people to mourn for their losses, (read verses 4-6). The reaction of the men with David was to stone him as though he were responsible for this evil deed taking place. But David as was his custom, turned to God. In fact, he wanted to find out what God wanted him to do in this situation, and we read, (read verses 7-8). The Ephod was the ceremonial dress the ~~priest~~ High Priest wore and on it were the sacred dice which were used to determine what God wanted done. So by whatever means employed, David determined that God would deliver the Amalekites into their hands and return the wives and families of David and his men. So it is then that we read as we did in our Scripture for this morning, (Read verses 9-10). There were two groups of people with David. There was first the 400 men who went with him in pursuit of the Amalekites, and there were the 200 men who had

been physically exhausted in their return to Ziklag and now in their haste to follow the Amalekites. So David took all of the unnecessary equipment that was not needed for this campaign and he piled it at a certain place and left the 200 hundred men to watch it until they returned. These were the "Baggage Watchers."

Thus it is that we read of the events which lead up to the return of David's wives and families as well as the families of his 600 men, plus all of their livestock and cattle. So they began their return to Ziklag and it is at this point that we learn of the problem that arises which continues beyond the Scripture we read this morning.

In the 21st verse we read, (read verse 21). A grand reunion takes place between David and the "Baggage Watchers" he had left behind. But this doesn't set too well with some of David's men, and we learn as we read on, (Read verse 22). ~~And~~ The old green-eyed monster, jealousy raises its ugly head. It's the old story which we all know so well. "How can these guys get the same rewards that we do? They didn't risk their lives. All they did was to sit here by the roadside guarding the baggage, while we risked our necks for them. Who do they think they are? And on and on goes the self-praise about how important they were and how unimportant the "Baggage Watchers" were.

(Illustration of what happened to the signers of the Declaration of Independence)

Everyone looks at these men and what they sacrificed for our freedom. And well they should! None of us should ever take lightly what they did. But does anyone ever consider what the wives and children of these men had to suffer along with these men? It took unrecognized people behind the scenes sacrificing, and giving of themselves, and watching the baggage if you will to accomplish our freedom. Others had to sacrifice so we can enjoy freedom today and it wasn't just the ones who marched off to fight the battles. We should honor our brave countrymen who gave their lives for us; and we should honor each and every individual who has served in the armed forces of our country. But we must ~~xxxxxxx~~ never forget the "Baggage Watchers" who were behind the scenes in every war this nation has been involved in. To do so is an injustice to the countless American men and women who will never receive any honors, yet, they gave of themselves so that we can live in a free America.

David understood this quite well and summed it up in the following words, (read verses 23-25). This is what Milton was conveying in his words, "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Tending the homefires isn't glamorous, but it is an important part of our heritage and we need to honor all Americans who have helped further our freedom whatever their role.

For the past few years patriotism had taken a downturn in our nation. It simply wasn't fashionable to be patriotic. It has come to the point where it is optional whether students in certain schools must pledge allegiance to the flag, or to sing the National Anthem. One of the strong leaders of our nation, our first president George Washington was portrayed as a man of intense integrity. I shudder to think of what the news media would be doing to him if he were alive today. He is purported as telling his father, "I cannot tell a lie." Whether he did or didn't say that is of no consequence. But what it proves is that he was portrayed as a man of honor. Perhaps the story of a modern Sunday School boy portrays what the modern example of that is.

(Illustration of boy in Sunday School and answer to "What is a lie")

A teacher in a Sunday School class had been teaching about lying and not telling the truth. She emphasized how God looked upon this as a sin. So she asked the question, "What is a lie?" For a period of time no one answered. Then one little boy raised his hand and when the teacher called on him he said, "A lie is an abomination to the Lord." And the teacher nodded her head and smiled and said that's right. But before she could stop him he said, "But it is a very present help in time of trouble."

And that pretty much sums up what many people feel about lying today. We have seen it and read of it from the halls of government down ~~to~~ through the church and into the homes of our nation. We cannot, we must not, forget the living and the dead who sacrificed in any way to ~~bring~~ give us the freedom which is ours in America. That includes the mothers whose sons fought and died, the sisters and brothers who could not march off to war; the men and women who toiled in the factories for long hours, often 7 days a week; the teachers and educators who continued to train the young minds of those coming generations. All of them were and are important.

(Illustration of Ode to Freedom, sent in by a church member - Clarence Diamond)

The late Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam tells of giving the annual Memorial Day address at the national monument in Gettysburg and how he concluded his speech with the Gettysburg Address).

(Illustration of this and man who heard Abe Lincoln give it)

It is the people who have made this country great. It is common ordinary people who are unheralded in history who quietly and silently behind the scenes make it possible to live in a wonderful country such as ours. It takes everyone serving no matter who or what their service might be. David saw this and knew it as a fact of life. The truth is, "For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike," verse 24.

If your job has been behind the scenes, or out in the public eye, each of you have served or are serving. It takes people to be in the military to march off and defend our freedom. But it also takes "Baggage Watchers" as well. And God blesses our service if we serve in His name.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor June 5, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Mike Brinker and Mike Gamble

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 451 "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

*Ascription

*The Call to Communion (communion folder)

*The Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "There's Something About That Name" (organ & sax)

Scripture: 2 Samuel 9: 7-13

Sermon: "The Royal for the Loyal"

Communion Hymn No. 560 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*Service of Holy Communion (page 2 of communion folder)

The Lord's Supper (Ushers will direct you to the rail)

Distribution of the Bread

Distribution of the Cup

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Invitational Hymn No. 407 "Lead Me to Calvary"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

***** *Congregation Standing *****

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mrs. Emogene Massey in memory of her father.

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Draxinger will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Jeff Snyder
and Frank Crawford.

Nursery will be provided today by John Penrod and Mike
Gamble.

Attendance last Sunday was 178 with 39 visitors.
Herb Shearer and Ben Vensel will be visiting the hospital
this week.

SUNDAY - Youth Group and Junior Youth

MONDAY - Benevolence Committee at 7:00 P.M.

Property Committee will meet at 7:30 P.M.

VBS staff and teachers will meet at 7:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY - Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY - Choir practice for all choirs! Youth at 6,
Chancel choir at 7, Cantata choir at 8!!!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

FAVORITE HYMNS

> June 12 - Service at 11:00 a.m. will be our kick off
for our "Day of Song and Praise", followed by
a luncheon sponsored by the Youth. That same
evening at 7:30 P.M. the choir will do a
Cantata entitled "Glorify His Name." After
the cantata the Youth invite each of you to
a Strawberry Festival in Rehoboth Hall.

> June 14 - ALL Sunday School teachers are asked to come
to a meeting at 7:00 P.M.

> June 15 - Finance Committee meeting at 7:00 P.M.

> June 20-24 Vacation Bible School each evening 6:30 to 9.

June 26 - Church Service and Picnic in Memorial Park.
Vacation Bible School is fast approaching and we still
need some helpers and cookies for refreshments. If you
would like to make cookies, please see Mary Jane and
if you can help in any way, see LuAnn Janicki. Also
today is an opportunity for you to pre-register or for
anyone you may want to bring with you. Remember, we
have a class for adults as well.

We need flowers for June 19, July 31, and for several
weeks there after. Please take a moment and sign up
for flowers in memory of a loved one.

> We wish to express our congratulations and best wishes to
any Senior classman who is graduating from high school,
or any other institute of education this year.

> Immediately following the service today we will have a
special Congregational meeting in Rehoboth Hall. This
is of utmost importance and we need you there. It was
explained in the Newsletter why we must have this meet-
ing and we hope your interest in the church and its
function will bring you to the meeting. This is all in
relation to the heating system of the church as well
as the church Van. Please make the effort to stay.

Vss 28-30A= He tol them of His luv & how He,ther K was wil 2B
ther serv

it thru Js Xp we hav priv of eat/drink at His tabl

we hav relatship w/King & He shar hospitalty w/us

this optuntty of liftim

it is=Th/Royl For Th/Loyl

Th/Royl wh/is Js Xp,shars His tabl 2/th Loyl,thoz who R His

followrs & Blong 2 Him

it is feast Byon cp & sumth lik story 2Oton erth mov machin

(Ilus Sparrow & - WAT A FEAST)

that shudB th/excl we shud mak - WOW, WAT A FEAST

it meal prep 4us by nun othr than th/King Himself

it optuntty & th/com/ord/lovl subjs 2dine w/Th KING

(Ilus poor man & relagship w/Js)

That is joy we shud hav

Js is w.us as we gathr rnd His tabl

He say 2us as Dav sed 2 Mephibos - 2 Samuel 9:7B

"AND THOU SHALT EAT BREAD AT MY TABLE"

COME!

Let us gather rnd His table!

"The Royal For The Loyal"

Scripture: 2 Samuel 9:7-13

(Illustration of "Each gives what he has")

East Berlin is communist controlled while West Berlin is free. One day some people in East Berlin took a truckload of garbage and dumped it on the west Berlin side. The people in West Berlin had the opportunity to do exactly the same thing, but instead, they took a truckload of canned goods, bread and milk and neatly stacked it on the East Berlin side. On top of the stack they placed a sign which said, "Each gives what he has."

"Each gives what he has!" To say that, is to indicate what a person shares and sharing is hospitality. How, and what we share is indicative of what is in our hearts.

King David of Israel had assumed the throne taking over after the death of King Saul. David, and Saul's son Jonathon had become very dear friends. When Jonathon died David must have made a vow that he would try to do for Jonathon's what he could because of that loyal friendship. So it is recorded in the 9th chapter of 2 Samuel that David seeks to fulfill what he believes is an obligation to Jonathon's memory. We read in verse 1, (read this verse). Notice that David says, "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathon's sake?"

The right of succession to the throne was that the son succeeded the father, or the son of the son assumed the throne. David was from another family and another tribe and was not to be the heir apparent to the throne of Israel. So David seeking to fulfill his debt of friendship to Jonathon sought to take care of any who remained from Jonathon's line.

And so the story unfolds as the author of this book of Samuel relates it in this chapter, (Read verses 2 through 5, and exposit).

Thus, Mephibosheth is brought to the palace, (read verse 6). Here is a former prince, who had no claim to the throne, no power to seek to overthrow King David and assume the throne his grandfather had sat on, who was brought out of nothingness and given a place of honor within the kingdom of the present King. David establishes Mephibosheth in this, (read verse 7). This is the direct opposite of what was normally done by a new king. Generally, the man assuming the throne sought out all of the male descendants of the former king and had them executed to assure that there wasn't an heir to the throne ~~is~~ who could seek to overthrow the new king. So when David tells Mephibosheth that he is showing him "kindness for Jonathon's sake," he is also showing him mercy. That kindness and mercy extended to Mephibosheth gave him the land and property which his grandfather Saul had. But it also extended to Mephibosheth, the honor of eating at the king's table.

One day after the death of his grandfather and his father, Mephibosheth turned out to be just another ex-prince. Then, several years later he is invited to sit at the table of the new King and to share all of the blessings which this relationship entails.

One day, a special man and woman shared a perfect environment. They had everything anyone could possibly want. Then by a simple act of disobedience, they lost everything ~~xxx~~ they had been given. Their life took on an aspect of hard work just to survive. But not only this, all of their descendants were heirs to this same type of life with hardships and a sense of futility. Many centuries passed and many generations, all with the same bleak

outlook. Then, after much wishing and hoping a Prince ascended to the throne of His Father, and He brought with Him, not only kindness, but also mercy. His subjects were shut out of the kingdom because they were stained with sin and guilt. And then, shortly before His death He gathered some of His subjects around His table and He said to them as it is recorded in Luke chapter 22, His words of comfort to them.

He told them of His love for them and how He, their King, was willing to be their servant.

He said as Luke records ~~xxxxxx~~ starting at the 28th verse, "Ye are they which have continued with Me in My temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom as My Father hath appointed unto Me; that ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom." verses 28-30A.

It is through Jesus Christ that we have the privilege of eating and drinking at His table.

We have a relationship with the King and He shares His hospitality with us. It is the opportunity of a lifetime. It is "The Royal For The Loyal." The Royal, which is Jesus Christ, shares His table with The Loyal, those who are His followers and belong to Him. It is a feast beyond compare. It is something like the story of the 20 ton earthmoving machine:

(Illustration of sparrow and caterpillar tractor)

A huge earthmoving machine was moved into a certain area to begin clearing ground for a building complex. It was one of the largest ever made and on the side was painted the information, "20 ton Caterpillar".

After everyone had left and the lot was quiet, sort of the calm before the storm, a small sparrow sat looking at that machine. He cocked his head and looked that machine up and down and then he read and re-read the words printed on the side. "He said, "20 ton caterpillar. Wow! What a worm!"

That should be the exclamation we should make. "Wow, what a feast!" It is a meal prepared for us by none other than the King Himself. It is the opportunity for the common, ordinary, loyal subjects to dine with the King.

(Illustration of poor man and his relationship with Jesus)

Each day about noon a minister noticed a poorly dressed man entering the church. Then a few minutes later he would leave. The pastor became concerned about this and so he told the custodian to checkup on the man. The custodian confronted the man who said, "I go in the church to pray." "Come now," the custodian said, "You aren't in there long enough to pray." The man answered, "I cannot pray long prayers every day, and I say, 'Jesus, it's Jim.' and I wait a couple minutes and then I leave." "It's just a little prayer, but I guess He hears me."

Some time later Jim was injured and taken to the hospital. But while he was there he seemed to be having a wonderful time. He cheered the patients up, even those who were grumpy and hard to get along with. The nurses noticed this and even noted that there was frequently laughter heard in the halls. One of the nurses questioned him and said, "Jim, they tell me you are responsible for the cheerfulness in this ward. And people tell me you are always happy." He said, "Yes, that's right. I can't help being happy. You see, it's my visitor. Everyday He makes me happy."

"Your visitor?," she asked. She knew that the chair beside his bed was always empty. He never had any visitors. So she asked, "When does he come?"

He said, "Every day. Yes, Maam, everyday about noon. He comes and stands at the foot of my bed. I see Him and He smiles and says, 'Hi Jim, it's Jesus.'"

That is the joy that we should have. Jesus is with us as we gather about His table. He says to us as David said to Mephibosheth, "And thou shalt eat bread at My table continually."

He shares with us His table, ~~xxxxx~~ "The Royal For The Loyal." Come! let us gather about His table!

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor June 12, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Mike Brinker and Mike Gamble
+ + + + + ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M. + + + + +

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 363 "To God Be the Glory"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) We offer to thee, O Father, praise
for the gift of thy Spirit. We are made aware that your
love is given to us in many ways. When we are lonely,
when we are filled with doubt, when we show unbelief,
it is your Spirit that fills us with your truth. And
when we burn with hatred, or anger, or selfishness,
greed, it is your Spirit which speaks to us with your
love. Forgive us, and may your Spirit live, guide,
and direct us in all ways. Through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Congregation Selection of 2 Hymns
(we will sing the first and last verses)
Chancel Choir Anthem Selections: "What A Friend We Have
In Jesus," - "Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen,"
"Thy Will Be Done"
Prayer
Offering
Offertory by the Youth Orchestra
*Doxology - page 382
Congregation Selection of 2 Hymns
(we will sing the first and last verses)
Youth Choir Anthem Selections: "Truth" and "This Is The Day"
Chancel Choir Anthem Selections: "Good News," - Great Is
The Lord," - "Shout Amen"

Saxophone and Organ Duet
Congregation Selection of 2 Hymns
(we will sing the first and last verses)
Invitation
*Invitational Hymn No. 435 "The Savior Is Waiting"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Weichay in memory of their Parents.
Mr. Bobby Tedder will greet our members and guests at
the door this morning.
Ushers for today are Jeanne Snyder, Jane Weichay, Judy
Shearer and Mid Diefenderfer.
Attendance last Sunday was 140 with 12 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Michelle Henry. There
will be nursery provided tonight for the Cantata.
Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital
this week.

Immediately following the service today the Youth are
inviting you to attend a Salad and Sandwich luncheon
in Rehoboth Hall. Tonight following the Cantata at
7:30 P.M. again the Youth will be having something
good for you. A Strawberry Festival!! Please plan to
attend all of the activities here at the church today.

*GLORIFY HIS NAME" --- is the Cantata the Choir will be
singing tonight at 7:30 P.M. Please bring along a
friend and enjoy the evening in praising the Lord
through music.

Vacation Bible School is coming fast. Remember to regis-
ter you and anyone coming with you. We are looking
for another successful year. Please support us by
attending or even bringing cookies. Dates are June
20 through the 24th from 6:30 to 9 P.M.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, follow-
ed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity
for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situa-
tions you have the chance to respond to God's leading
for your life by coming forward to the altar. The
invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as
Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling.
The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please
avail yourself of this opportunity.

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor June 19, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: ToniJo Patsy and Meron Hewis

+ + + + + * + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
Opening Hymn No. 323 "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty"
*Ascription
*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Eternal Father, we want you to love us; but we have not yet learned how to love each other, even those who are as close to us as our own families. We are quick to see another's faults, but we are insensitive to their feelings. We hear others speak, but we do not listen to the deeper meanings which underline their words. We pass by those who carry heavy burdens of worry we could share, and we pay no attention. We are deaf and blind, careless, and selfish. Forgive us Father, for our unnumbered sins; and teach us to love others in the true spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name [Ps. 113]

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 108 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer
Offering
Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Scripture: Genesis 3: 8-13

Sermon: "World To World"

*Invitational Hymn No. 260 "And Can It Be That I
Should Gain?"

41 sing 67-99

*Benediction
*Postlude

*Congregation Standing

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Dally placed the beautiful flowers on the altar in memory of Loved Ones.

Mrs. Lois Pennington will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushering today will be done by men of the congregation filling in for the Youth who are away.

Attendance last Sunday was 135 with 16 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today

Lloyd Link and Rick Vinroe will be visiting the hospital this week.

SUNDAY - NO Youth or Junior Youth

WEDNESDAY through FRIDAY - 6:30 to 9 P.M. we will be having Vacation Bible School. We hope all of you will try to attend. Also for those who volunteered to bake cookies please make sure they are here. We are looking for another successful year. Also we need helpers in all areas. Please see LuAnn Janicki if you would like to volunteer your services.

Since the Congregational meeting on June 5th, funds are coming in for the replacement of the furnace. Last week we received \$900.00 toward this project. This is just a start of what the congregation can do when we all pull together for a most needed improvement. I will be sharing with you weekly the furnace funding we receive.

✓ CHURCH PICNIC AND SERVICE will be held next week at the Rotary Shelter in Memorial Park. Please bring a table service and tureen. Meat, dessert and beverage will be provided. Also we are planning fun and games for all ages. A special "fun" fund raiser will be held and funds will go toward the Van. Come to the picnic and join in on all the fun and fellowship with your fellow members.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situation you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! ! !

"World To Worlds"

cripture: Genesis 2:8-17

Illustration of Adolph Hitler & painting of him - "In the beginning was the word")

XX

In the early days of Nazism, Hitler spoke to a group of his chosen men in a beer cellar in Munich. His speech was filled with hate and the faces of these men reflected the evil they would soon be about as they began to engage the world in war.

And artist portrayed that scene on canvas and captured the facial reactions of the groups as they listened to Hitler's fiery words. The entitled the painting: "In the Beginning was the Word."

that a distortion of God's Word. No one like Adolph Hitler could ever come close to being "The Word," which of course in Scripture was and is Jesus Christ. Hitler and his ilk were of the world and not of God so there shouldn't even be a comparison made. But in order for us to understand this travesty which continues to be foisted upon our present society, we need to understand God's position and plan for His creation right from the very beginning. The Apostle John writing to the first century church recorded in what we call his first letter, in the 2nd chapter, verses 15 and 16 the following: (read these verses).

When John tells us, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world," he is not saying that we must hate the place in which we live. John is talking about two separate and distinct worlds here. Going back to the very beginning of recorded time we read, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

There, is the world. That is what God created; it is what He had made; and it was good, and perfect and there was nothing wrong with it. But there was a change which took place which made the world not what God wanted it to be. So then John can say with complete truth, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

John is talking about going from ~~xxxxxx~~ "World to World." Now that may sound like a contradiction, but it isn't. It is merely what happened to the world as opposed to what God desired for it.

The word "World" as John writes it, in Greek is "COSMOS." That word depicts the universe in a smaller or larger sense. John uses it as implying the world system which surrounds us everyday of our lives. It is not used strictly as a dwelling place, but rather, as that which shapes our thinking, our belief, our daily living. To understand this we need to go back to the beginning. As we have read in the book of Genesis God created everything and it was good. But somewhere along the line, an angel of God's tried to be like God and was cast out of heaven with his followers. This made him available to appear upon the scene somewhere on earth and he did exactly that in the lives of the two people God had placed in his perfect Garden called Eden. We all know the story how Eve was tempted by Satan and then when she partook of the fruit of the tree she gave some to Adam and he partook of it as well. Here then is the origin of sin. Now here is where the struggle begins. When sin was introduced into the world, everyone from Adam on down became an heir of that sin nature and we have sin within us waiting to be released. Each one of us lives in what may well be called, "Our own little world." That "world" encompasses this life which we are privileged to live. This is our "Cosmos," and when our "Cosmos," or "our world," is triggered by the

"Cosmos" without, then we are involved in the struggle. No one is exempt from it. We are each one fighting the battle of "World To World." When we yield to the lust of the eyes, or the lust of the flesh we are in Satan's world. Satan is the ruler of this world ~~only because~~ ~~and~~ and he has the opportunity to draw us from the world of God to his world. And the first thing that anyone does with sin is to find an excuse for it.

People say: "I can't help myself."
"I've always been this way."
"I've tried to change, but I can't."
"I'm better than a lot of other people."
"It doesn't hurt anyone does it?"
"It's the only pleasure I allow myself."

And the list goes on. Look at what Adam said when God confronted him with his sin. In the 12th verse of our Scripture for this morning Adam says, "The woman WHOM THOU gavest to be with me." "It was her that made me do it," he is saying, but furthermore, he is blaming God for his sin. He is saying, "If YOU hadn't given me this woman, I would not have sinned. So it's all your fault. How many times have we heard someone say that to us? Or have we said it to someone to cover our sin?"

So then God turns to Eve and asks, "What is this you have done?" "And the woman answered, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." verse 13.

In other words, "the devil made me do it."

(Illustration of woman buying dress and Satan talking to her about it)

A woman came home from a shopping trip and wanted to show off her new dress to her husband. She went into the bedroom and put it on. Then she called for her husband to come in to see her in it. He looked at the dress with price tags hanging all over it and said, "Why did you buy that, you know we can't afford it?" She said, "Well, it was such a pretty dress and I couldn't help it, ~~Satan~~ the devil made me do it." "Well," he says, "why didn't you say, 'Get thee behind me Satan?'" She said, "I did, and Satan said, 'Hooooooooooooo ----- it looks good from back here too.'"

Satan, or the devil gets more credit than he deserves. Christ has a greater power than Satan and John tells us also in his first letter, "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."

The lesson we learn here is that sin is something we must deal with in each of our lives.

There isn't a one of us ~~whom~~ who can claim immunity from it. From this Scripture we can see the results which come from sin. They had been told they would die, but they didn't ~~fixxxxxxxx~~ transpire as we know death to be. Instead, they died otherwise.

In the 7th verse, we read: (read this verse). Adam and Eve lost their self-esteem. They perceived themselves as being changed and they perceived this nakedness as a cause for shame. Sin destroys the positive and brings out the negative.

Then Adam and Eve sought to cover up the sin problem. They could have sought God and asked ~~for~~ in repentance to be forgiven. Instead, they covered themselves up. This is one of the big things society today tries to teach as good moral values. ~~It's~~ It's the "I'm OK, you're OK" theory which became ~~an~~ a popular book a few years back. It isn't sin today that people have, it's called a disease. Alcoholics, dope addicts, homosexuals, and others don't act out sin, they have a sickness, a weakness of character and these things are covered up, with the fig leaves of our scientific minds.

In the 8th verse we read, (read this verse). They hid from God. They knew what they had

done was wrong and they seemed to believe that God wouldn't be able to find them. What they lost, what also died for them was the personal relationship they had with the Creator of the Universe. They lost fellowship with Him.

In verses 11 & 12 we read, (read these verses). Here ~~xxxxxxx~~ was the death of personal responsibility. Adam saw it as God's fault, and Eve's fault; and Eve saw it as the serpent's fault. Neither of them were willing to take the responsibility for what they had done. But God is the author of love and in the midst of this first flagrant turning from Him, He still forgave and provided for Adam and Eve. No longer were they in a personal one on one relationship with God, but God provided for them and took care of their needs. But Adam and Eve had to live with the consequences of their sin. And so must all mankind. Suppose in a hypothetical situation a man who is a leader in a church, a good Christian, and a family man, stops one night on the way home from work at a bar for a drink. He has more than he should and is drunk. He drives his car home weaving on the highway and instead of hitting the brake hits the gas pedal and ploughs into a tree. The car is totalled and he is in the hospital. His leg is badly smashed and the doctor's amputate it. He asks God for forgiveness, and God forgives him; he asks his family's forgiveness and they forgive him. But what about his leg, what about his life? Will God grow a new leg on him? No! He must live with the consequences of his sin for the rest of his life. This is what sin does to any and all of us. There are consequences for each and every sin that we commit. It doesn't mean that God deserts us, ~~xxxxxxx~~ He doesn't. But we must live with the consequences caused by our sins.

Too often we ask, "Where is God, or where was God when this happened to someone we know?" and we are somewhat like the little girl who wanted positive proof.

(Illustration of little girl and lightning, and, "I want someone with skin on")

A little girl was in her bedroom and everyone else was in bed also. A thunderstorm had come up and the girl was awakened by the noise. Then she saw the flashes of lightning and she called out, "Daddy, I'm scared." Her dad awoke and said, "You don't have to be afraid, God is with you. God loves you." This silenced the girl for a little while,.... but then the voice is heard again and she says, "I don't care about God, Daddy; I want someone with skin."

Man has always sought someone with skin.

(Illustration of "Go leads a pretty sheltered life")

God has served the sentence we should serve, but Jesus Christ took our place. He has made it possible for us to escape this world to be a part of His world. That can and should be a reality for each of us. You can know the renewed relationship we can have with God through Christ. God's desire for each person is that we might go from "World To World."

"CHURCH IN THE PARK"

June 26, 1988

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Ascription

*Opening Hymn No. 14 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

*Call to Worship:

Pastor - Praise ye the Lord! Praise O ye servants
of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

People - Blessed be the name of the Lord from this
time forth and for evermore.

All - From the rising of the sun unto the going
down of the same, the Lord's name is to be
praised.

*Invocation

Hymn No. 16 "An Evening Prayer"

Morning Prayers

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

Anthem: "The Chapel By The Road"

Scripture: Genesis 3: 14-24

Sermon: "The Third Dimension"

Prayer

Closing Hymn No. 25 "Are Ye Able Said the Master"

Benediction

Postlude

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

Ushers for today are Dick Mangel, Dick Dally, Don
Kingsley and George Pflugh.

Attendance last Sunday was 91 with 11 visitors.

Art Snyder and Howard Jalliet will be visiting the
hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Marge Smiley and Jim Bell in BMH.
Mrs. Isabel Hockenberry in Montefiore Hosp.
in Pittsburgh

> Immediately following the service today we will all join
in the church family picnic. Those of you who have
tureens, please bring them to the buffet table. The
Lay, Life and Work Committee will assist you. We hope
you will also join in the fun and games we have planned
for you, adults as well as all children.

> We wish to extend a thank you to all of you who partici-
pated in VBS this past week. We had a successful
program because of all of you. Also a thanks to LuAnn
Janicki for directing VBS this year.

> HELP NEEDED! You are invited to join with over one
hundred persons who have been fighting a battle of
legency for you and yours for the past 9 weeks. Please
phone 285-5125 for a weekly recorded message on how you
too can help. *RESULT OF PRI MEETING*

After the service today please be sure to turn your hymn
booklet into one of the Ushers.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 28th - VBS follow up meeting at 7:00 P.M. We need
all final reports and material turned in.

July 6th - Church Council at 7:00 P.M.

July 12th - Sunday School Teachers meeting at 7:00 P.M.

July 19th - Finance Committee at 7:00 P.M.

> Last weeks receipts in the Improvement Fund for the
furnace was good. Nothing come designated for such, but
the increase amount from those giving to the Improve-
ment Fund totalled \$180.00

"The Third Testament"
 1971-72
 1. The first part of the book is a study of the
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(Plus boy & mareg-igiv them 4they kno wat they do)

Jeroboam - Jeroboam - 333-333
 Kingdom las 120 yrs

1st Dimensin - Satns kingdom

2nd Dimensin - Xp's kingdom

3rd Dimensin - Theocratic kingdom=G's kingdom

(Xpian man, drink, lose leg=consequenc of sin)

(Plus Billy & want 28 possible)

(Plus Lesse Viren, Munich Clymps-10, M race)

"The Third Dimension"

Scripture: Genesis 2:14-24

(Illustration of little boy in class and question about marriage)

In a Sunday School class the teacher was talking about marriage. He asked the question, "What did Jesus say about people getting married?" The little boy raised his hand and said, "Jesus said, 'Forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

In some instances that may be the Gospel truth. But it is quite evident the little fellow wasn't seeing marriage in the proper dimension. This is true of another dimension that most people also don't understand.

It was in the year of Nabonassar 975 B.C. that the kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms. In the 9th century before Christ, between 927 and 921 there was a drastic change in the tribes of Israel. The kingdom had lasted 120 years. Solomon succeeded to the throne succeeding his father David in the year 927. A leader named Jeroboam, a relation of Solomon, came out of exile in Egypt where he had been in seclusion, and ten of the tribes selected him as their leader. He came to Bethel and requested that he undo the hardships which Solomon had imposed on those people. Jeroboam consulted with the old men of Israel and they told him to listen to the people and make adjustments. Jeroboam then asked advice of the young men and they told him to tell those people that if they thought Solomon was bad, they hadn't seen anything yet. So Jeroboam and the people of the ten tribes pulled out of Israel and became what was known as the "Northern Kingdom," while Solomon was king of the tribe of Judah and what was left of the tribe of Benjamin. Thus came about a dimension which had never intended to take place.

In the beginning when God set apart the nation of Israel as His people, it was Jacob's twelve sons who had the responsibility of being the leaders of the twelve tribes. This split some many years later was not according to God's plan for His people.

This was a continuation of the first dimension as it began shortly after creation. Satan had entered the world and caused man to become a fallen part of God's creation. We see in the third chapter of Genesis that Satan had now established his kingdom on earth and this was the first dimension. Scripture clearly points out that God readily acknowledged Satan the earth as man's domain. The earth is governed by a system of sin and wickedness. This is the first dimension.

Now the original plan that God had was thwarted. Now what would He do? There was only one solution and that was to rescue man somehow from the clutches of Satan's kingdom. This meant that He needed to send someone against Satan to defeat him, or to pit every individual person against Satan and let them either win or lose the battle. But God knew that man is finite, he is human, while Satan is outside of the flesh and is spirit. The battle must be fought with spirit against spirit. So God Himself came in the person of a human being to wage that battle against Satan's kingdom. It is in Genesis where we read of this promise for the first time. In this 3rd chapter, the 15th verse God gives the first promise of a Messiah, One who would take the place of all others to defeat the kingdom of Satan.

(Read and explain this verse). Here is the beginning of Christ's kingdom. This is the announcement of how God would deal with Satan. Now Satan knows that any righteous seed of a woman may well be this Messiah. He must do battle with all of mankind in

ORON

To maintain his kingdom. Through the Old Testament the Messianic seed is traced from Adam to Noah, to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to David, and ultimately to Christ. Satan does all that he can to defeat any and all seed of women throughout this history. He turns man against man, and divides the chosen people of God. He does all sorts of things to defeat God's plan. But it was the cross which ultimately brought about Satan's defeat. It appeared that he had won because this Messiah was dead. For three days Satan had the victory. But the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ power of God was demonstrated in a mighty way by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. Satan still continues to wrestle and fight to control his kingdom, but he has been defeated and it is now Christ's kingdom that prevails and this is the second dimension. Satan attacks those who now belong to God and the battle we face is to preserve ~~xxx~~ and pass on the message of the Messiah to the world. All the while Satan is fighting to diminish that message and keep everyone he can from coming to the Messiah. Thus it appears that the kingdom of Satan might yet win out because he has not given up and been completely defeated. He still wages the battle. And this might be so were it not for "The Third Dimension." The third dimension is what we can call the "Theocratic Kingdom," or, the Kingdom of God. God intervened into the affairs of man to establish this Kingdom and rescue His creation from the kingdom of Satan. We see in the 2nd Chapter of Genesis how God confronts Adam, Eve, and later with their sin. He calls Adam and Eve and lets them know that even in their sin He loves them. He confronts Satan and tells him of his ultimate downfall in verse 12. In verses 13 through 15 he tells Adam and Eve what the consequences of their sin are. We can see in this that there are always consequences for everything. Example of ~~xxx~~ was who in Christ's, drinking, losing leg, forgiveness, but living with it! God doesn't grow a new leg on the man, that man must live with the consequences of his sin. And this is exactly what God did with Adam and Eve and the whole race after ~~xx~~ them. It was then that God restored Adam and Eve and we read in the 21st verse, (read verse). God further protected them and granted them safety from further sin, (read verses 22-24). If they had partaken of the other tree, they, like Satan would have been locked eternally into sin and God would have had to destroy them. But with the plan that God had, "His Kingdom, the Third Dimension made it possible for God to bring man back to Himself. Satan's kingdom has been confronted by Christ's kingdom and it is God's kingdom which has secured the final victory. But it takes each individual involved in life to claim that victory through Jesus Christ.

(Illustration Billy wanting to be "Possible")

The teacher asked her class what each wanted to become when they grew up. "President," "A fireman," "A policeman," "A teacher." And by one they answered until it became Billy's time. The teacher asked, "Billy, what do you want to be when you grow up?" Immediately Billy answered, "Possible." "Possible?" asked the teacher. "Yes, possible," Billy said. "My mother is always telling me I'm impossible and when I grow up I want to be possible." But should be the goal of each of us regardless of what stage in life we are. Young or old, mid-life, or whatever. We should desire to be "possible" in the life God has given to us.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests

*Confession (In Unison) O God, our Father, you know that we all face the temptations of life. You know that many times we are turned on by the world and turned off by religion and the Church. You know that we do not want to discipline ourselves to a love that demands obedience. But you also know that since we are human, we can only resolve our problems and our difficulties through you. Help us in our weakness to become strong, and in the midst of our sins to find forgiveness. Hear us now, and let us hear your whispered "Go and sin no more." Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor - Let us pray.

*Congregation Standing * * * * *

>HOSPITALIZED: Mrs. Helen Quineaux and Marge Smiley in BMH.

Following the sermon we sing an invitational hymn, followed by a period giving each worshipper the opportunity for reflection. As you reflect on your life's situations you have the chance to respond to God's leading for your life by coming forward to the altar. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire. Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - SEPTEMBER 11, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

*HYMN
RESPONSIVE ~~REXIXIX~~ SCRIPTURE
SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
PRAYFR/OFFERING
*DOXOLOGY
PASTORAL PRAYER
HYMN
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 4:1-15
Sermon: ~~REXIXIX~~ "SELF-STYLED" ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 7/3/88
*HYMN
*BENEDICTION
*POSTLUDE

TWO WOUNDED MARINERS
FARM & HER SERVANTS
FAMILIES OF CAIN VICTIMS
UNFORGIVEN - MATILDA
" JERRY
PICK - PEG
AUTUMN FAMILY

SCRIPT: GEN 4:1-15; SERM: "SELF-STYLED"

(ILUS WRITER, OLD FRIEND, & WAT DID U THINK OF MY LAS BUK?)
CLASIC EXAMP SELF-CENTREDNESS
WE MAYNOT B LK THAT, BUT SUMONE MADE LIST RATIONLIZATIONS WE
USE
(ILUS THEZ RATIONLIZATIONS)
1) "T CUD GO ON & ON & PT IS WE C OTHERS THRU DIF EYES & FR/DIF
P. PECTIV
INVOLV IN THIS IS "SELF" - "S - E-- L - F"
WE GENERATION & RESULTS OF THIS TODAY
CADDILLAC COMMERCIAL & - YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF 2HAY A CAR LK
(ILUS OF THE IMAGE IDOLING 80's) THI:
THIS ALL START IN BGIN OF TIME
ADAM & EVE SINND, TURNED FROM GOD
GOD GAV FROM CHILD WUPB BORN 2DEFFAT SIN-DAMAGED WORLD
4SATAN, BOKA NECESSARY FROM NEVR FULFILLD
SINC SATAN NO KNC WHO SEED OF WOMN WUDB PROMISD ONE, EVERY
SEED OF WOMAN WAS SUSPECT & HAD 2B ATTACKED
FIRST EXAMPL IS TWC BRCS - CAIN & ABEL
ONE SHEPHERD, OTHER A FARMER
BOTH CAM 2 WROSHIP GOD, & BOTH BROT AN OFFERING
VSS 3-5A=DIF IN OFFRS NO PT CNT, OTHER THAN ANIMALS & CROPS
THEZ THOZ CLAIN ABEL'S WAS ACPT BCUZ POFER ANIMALS THEY HAD
2B SLAIN THUS SHED BLUD
& SCRIP PT CNT=WITHOUT SHED OF BLUD THEZ NO REMISSION
THIS TRUE, BUT THEZ NO MENTION OF THIS HERE THAT THEZ CFTRS WER
4 TH/4GIVNES OF SINS
WE F TOL THEZ OFFRS WEP 2WORSHIP GOD
2STAT ABEL'S OFFR WAS ACPT BCUZ ANIMALS, & CAIN'S NOT ACPT
BCUZ IT NO CONTAIN ANIMALS IS 2MISS TH/PT COMPLETELY
CAIN RAISED CROPS
ABEL RAISED SHEEP
" IFOR IT IS A FACT THAT GOD WAS NOT ASKING/DEMANDING WAT
CAIN CUD NOT GIV
G NEVR DIZ THAT * HE ONLY ASKS US 2GIV WAT WE HAV
LETS LK THIS PASAG IN VSS 3 & 4
DO U C TH/DIF?? ABEL GAV OF 1STLINGS, DUANT SAY SAM FOR CAIN
REASN PERHAPS G BLES ABEL=HE GAV OF 1ST, & CAIN MAY HAV GIV
2nd, 3rd best, not 1st best
EVIDENT CAIN WANT 2LIV SELF-STYLED LIFE - DO IT HIS WAY
VS 5=CAIN GETS ANGRY WEN OFFR NOT ACPT BY GOD
VS 6-7=Q QUEST ANGER & EXPLAINS END RESULT OF IT
VS 8=CAIN'S RESPONSE?? HE KILLS HIS BORTHER
PERHAPS CAIN THOT G WUD ACPT HIM BCUZ HE NOW NUMBER ONE
VSS 9-10=Q DUANT ACPT OUR SELF-STYLED MOTIVS OR REASONS
G WANTS G-STYLED PEOPLE INSTED

EXAMPL OF JS & SELF-STYLED THINKING
MATTHEW 20:20 ff

MATTHEW 20:23-23

TWO OF US DISCIPS THOT SELVS WORTHY R SEATED HIS RT & LEFT
VS 24=OTHERS HERD IT & BCKM ANGRY 2THINK THEZ 2BROTHERS CONSIDR
SELVS THZ TH/CHOSN ONES AMONG THEM
THIS IS GAIN & ABEL ALL OVER AGAIN
WHO KNOWS AT WUD HAV HAPPENED IF JS HAD WALKED AWAY FR/DISCIPS
F'FR BLOWN BLUSHED PERHAPS
VSL 5-26=JS EXPLAINS WAT A TRUE FOLLOWER IS
(ILUS OF WOMAN FIRST CLASS AIRFARE & NO SPK 2SERVANTS)
CAN U IMAGIN WAT COT TH STWARDRESS/FLIGHT ATTENDANT MUS HAV FELT??
WE ALL SERVANTS AT ONE PT OR OTHER
EVEN SNOB WOMAN IS SERVANT WHEN SHE SERVS TEA 2HER SNOB FRENDS
(ILUS AIRLINE EXECUTIVE TALKING ABOUT BEING SERVANTS)
JS IS TELLING HIS DISCIPLE THEY R 2B SERVANTS LIK HIMSELF
IK WAT HE SET ABOUT HIMSELF - VS 28
TH/ULTIMATE IN SERVANTHOD
(ILUS DR. KOHNFELD, & ALEXANDER SOLZENITSYN)
THIS FR, ALTHO NO BCM XPIAN, ADOPT XPIAN PRINCIPLES & COST LIFE
TH/LESSON CAIN/ABEL ALWAYS WITH US
WE HAV CHANC 2B SELF-STYLED & LIKE TH/REST OF TH/WORLD
OR, WE CAN SELF-STYLE OURSELVS IN TH/IMAG OF XP
WHICH SELF STYLING WIL WE CHOO??

1. What is the purpose of the document?
 The purpose of the document is to provide information regarding the current status of the project and to outline the next steps to be taken.

2. What are the key findings or results?
 The key findings from the recent analysis indicate that the project is currently on track, with some minor delays in the timeline. The results of the experiments conducted over the past week show promising outcomes, particularly in the areas of data collection and analysis.

3. What are the next steps or actions to be taken?
 The next steps include completing the data analysis, conducting a final review of the project plan, and preparing the final report. It is also necessary to schedule a meeting with the stakeholders to discuss the progress and any potential risks.

4. What are the potential risks or challenges?
 Potential risks include budget constraints, resource allocation issues, and possible changes in the project scope. These challenges need to be addressed proactively to ensure the project's successful completion.

5. What is the overall conclusion or recommendation?
 The overall conclusion is that the project is progressing well, but it requires careful monitoring and management to avoid any significant setbacks. The recommendation is to continue with the current plan while keeping a close eye on the budget and resources.

6. What is the date of the document?
 The document was prepared on the 15th of October, 2023.

7. Who is the author or contact person?
 The author of the document is John Doe, who can be reached at john.doe@example.com or by phone at 555-123-4567.

8. What is the title of the document?
 The title of the document is "Project Status Report - Q3 2023".

9. What is the version number of the document?
 The version number of the document is 1.0.

10. What is the distribution list or recipients?
 The distribution list includes the project manager, the steering committee, and the relevant departments involved in the project.

"Self-Centered"

Scripture: Genesis 5:1-17

(Illustration of self-centeredness)

A writer met an old friend and they talked for two hours, after which the writer said, "Now we've talked about me long enough - let's talk about you! What did you think of my last book?"

Here is a classic example of self-centeredness. We may not be quite like that, but someone has compiled a list of ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ rationalizations which may convict us at one time or another.

(Illustration of when the other fellow acts)

When the other fellow acts that way he is ugly; when you do it's nerves.

When others are set in their ways, they're obstinate; when you are it's firmness.

When your neighbor doesn't like your friend, he's prejudiced; when you don't like him you are a good judge of human nature.

When he tried to treat someone materiall; well, he's teasing; when you try it you are being thoughtful.

When he takes time to do things well, he's a slowpoke, or lazy; when you do, you are deliberate and careful.

When he spends a lot, he's a spendthrift; when you do you're generous.

When someone picks a flaw in things, he's cranky and critical; when you do you're creative.

When he is mild-mannered you call his weak; when you are, it's graciousness.

When someone dresses especially well, that person is extravagant; when you do, it is tastefulness.

When he says what he thinks it is openness; when you do, you are being frank.

When he takes great risks in business, he's foolhardy; when you do, you are a wise financier.

Let's hope the list could go on and on. But the point is that we see others through different eyes and from a different perspective. Involved in this is ~~self~~. A book was written entitled, "Looking for Her Number One, and shortly after the book was published, the author's wife divorced him and received thousands of dollars in alimony. When asked about this she is reported to have said, "I read the book."

Since the 1960's we have been involved in the "Me" generation. It has been an increasing trend of taking care of "self." Just this past week I have heard a commercial for a Cadillac dealer in Pittsburgh and the announcer has said, "You owe it to yourself to have a car like this!" How many times have you heard that expression, "You owe it to yourself?" With this self-centered attitude it is no wonder that we encounter the actions and attitudes expressed in our society today. This all started back in the beginning of time. When Adam and Eve turned from God and sinned. It was then that God gave them a promise that a child would be born to defeat the sin-damaged system in which they lived. For Satan, it became necessary to defeat make sure the promise was never fulfilled. Since Satan didn't know who that seed would be, every seed of woman was suspect and needed to be attacked. The example from Scripture points this warfare out very clearly. It involves two brothers. One we are told was a shepherd. The other was a farmer. They both came to worship God and they both brought an offering. No need, (read verses 3 through 5). The difference in the offerings is not clearly spelled out other than the one involved animals and the other crops of the ground. There are those who claim that Abel's offering was accepted because it was animal and in order to offer them the animals had to be slain, thus shedding their blood and Scripture points out elsewhere, "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission."

This is all true. But there is no mention made that these offerings were to seek forgiveness. The offerings were made to simply worship God. To state that Abel's offering was acceptable because it consisted of animals, while Cain's was unacceptable because it didn't contain milk, only is to miss the point. Cain raised crops, Abel raised sheep. Therefore, it is a fact that God was not demanding of Cain that which he could not give. God never expects us to give to Him that which we do not have. He does expect of us to give that which we do have. The point perhaps that is so often overlooked in this passage is that Abel brought of, (look at verse 4), "of the first-lings of his flock." That meant Abel gave of the best that he had. It was the "firstling" or the first-born. It wasn't second best, or third best, it was that which was first. And in what Cain brought it merely says, "Cain brought of the fruit of the ground." There is no mention made of whether it was the first-fruit, or it was the very best he could bring. I believe that Cain merely brought some of the crops, but not the first and best.

So we see in this that Cain was determined to live a "self-styled" life. God would have to accept him on his terms. He would call the shots. And so we see in this passage of Scripture the history of these events.

First we see in verse 2, that it must have been self-determination for Cain. That he brought God would have to accept, because that was it.

It is then when his offering is not acceptable that Cain gets angry. (verse 5).

God questions this, (verse 6), and regardless of what God said, Cain is still angry. (verse 7).

So God explains that if Cain brings his offering with perhaps a different attitude and a different motivation behind it, (verse 8), then his offering would be acceptable as well.

But Cain's anger and his brother was so strong that when he met him in the field, he killed him. What triggered his anger was the belief he must have felt because Abel's offering was pleasing to God. All of this caused Cain to despise of Abel making it possible for himself to become number one in God's sight. His reasoning was entirely wrong because God does not accept our selfish motives as the basis for His acceptance of us. God surely will not accept a self-styled person. What God does accept is a "God-styled" person; a person who strives to live according to God's order of things.

Jesus, who was the promised Seed broken of in the 3rd chapter of Genesis encountered this self-styled thinking and he dealt with it as it should be dealt with. One example of this is found in the 23rd chapter of Matthew. Two of Jesus' disciples believed that they should both have a special place in God's kingdom. James and John must have prevailed upon their father to promote them to Jesus for these roles. So it is we read, (read verses 23-27). It was at this point that the others became angry with the nerve of these two hotheads. And it is shades of Cain all over again. Who knows what the outcome would have been if Jesus would have excused himself from their midst. It is a good possibility that there would have been a full blown power struggle taking place. But Jesus explained that in order for anyone to have a place in the kingdom, the person involved had to be a servant type. That meant, willing to stoop beneath their dignity and be involved in serving, (28-29).

(Illustration of women in first-class section on plane refusing to speak to "stewardess")
 A man and his wife were flying in the first-class section on a plane. The stewardess asked the woman if she wanted a pillow to be more comfortable. The woman ignored the repeated requests of the stewardess until her husband leaned over to the stewardess and said, in a voice that could be heard by all of the first-class passengers, "My wife does not speak to servants."

Can you imagine how that stewardess must have felt? She and I know to be called a "servant." But that is exactly what ~~xxxxxxstewardessxxxx~~ a stewardess is. Nowadays they will like to call them "flight attendants." But their job is still one of service. And even that woman who refused to talk to "servants" is a servant herself if she serves tea to some of her snobbish friends and passes the glass and sugar to them.

(Illustration of airline executive talking of the need for service)

It is rather ironic that I read of an airline executive who was being interviewed a few years ago and he said that the real need for their industry was service. He said, "Service is the only thing we have to sell, but it is the toughest to teach. Nowadays, no one wants to be thought of as a servant."

But this is exactly what Jesus said His followers must be and what they must do. The ultimate goal for life is what Jesus told His disciples which is what we read in the 22nd chapter of Matthew's Gospel. This should be for each of us, something that we have committed to our hearts and even have printed on a card where we can look at it over and over and keep to have it. There in the 22nd chapter a lawyer came to Jesus and asked Him what the greatest commandment was. Jesus' response is twofold. First, he says, (Read verses 37 & 38). He says, that first of all we should give everything over to God. That means all that we have; it means all our abilities; it means our complete selves. Turn it all over to God and ask Him to show us what to do with our lives that He has given us. If everyone would do this, I guarantee that we would see more commitment from our church members than we ever have. But too many of us want to give only so much and hold back the rest. I also guarantee you that if we all did this, we would all rise quickly and find that God wouldn't need all of it. He would show us how to use what we have for Him, and we would find we had more than we ever believed that we had. We would find very quickly that we absolutely cannot outgive Him.

Then Jesus said, (Read verse 39 & 40). Secondly, we see that God asks us to "love self and give it to the needs of others." How many have you prayed for this week other than your immediate family? How many have you visited in the hospital, or nursing home? How many have you spoken to of the spiritual needs they may have? How many have you done anything for this past week? Contrast this with how much you have done for yourself!

If we loved our neighbors, and that doesn't just mean the guy next door or across the street if we love our neighbors as ourselves, we give of ourselves to them. To become the servants Jesus asks us to be.

(Illustration of Russian doctor, and Alexander Solzhenitsyn)

This doctor, although he didn't become a Christian, willingly adopted Christian principles even though he well knew it might cost him his life. But because he gave up his self-interests, another man did accept Christ and has even told us about that faith with the world. The lesson of Galt and that is always with us. We have the chance to "self-style" ourselves in the image of Jesus Christ, or in the image of the world. Which "self-styling" will you choose?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor July 10, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Jimmy Shearer and Mike Gamble

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
Opening Hymn No. 6 "This Is My Father's World"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) O God, who hast brought us into this
fellowship with one another through thy Son Jesus Christ:
let us be one in thought and mind and spirit. Help us to
strive not to be individuals but to be a group of fellow
believers. Forgive us in our weakness of turning from
thee. Give us strength as we need it in our times of
turmoil and frustration. Help us to live in the world,
but not to be completely wrapped up in all of it.
Make our wills obedient to thine, for we ask it all in
Jesus' name. Amen.

*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 425 "Cleanse Me"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Scripture: Genesis 6: 1-8
Sermon: "Behind The Externals"
*Invitational Hymn No. 670 "Once to Every Man and Nation"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude
***** *Congregation Standing *****

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Riemer will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr.
and Mrs. Ray Isherwood in memory of Loved Ones.
Ishers serving today are: Alta Kradel, Lois Stokes, Dutch
Bolam and Marilyn Snyder.
Attendance last Sunday was 107 with 6 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Mike & Carol Roper.
Bonnie Gannon and Helen Riemer will be visiting the
hospital this week.

DATES TO REMEMBER: July 12th - Sunday School teachers
meeting at 7 P.M.
- Finance Committee at 7 P.M.
July 21st - 7:00 a meeting of the Lay,
Life & Work, Hospitality,
and Activities Committees.

Beginning next Sunday the 17th, Rev. Link will be on a
weeks vacation. We will have sharing the worship with
us Mr. Dale Reisman. If there are any needs you may
have, please contact Ginny at home or in the office and
she will help you out.

AUGUST 23rd the American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive
here in Rehoboth Hall. They are looking for some people
to volunteer to help them out. They are looking for 5
people to help with registration, refreshments and floor
helpers. If you would like to help out in any of these
areas, please let the office know as soon as possible.
Also we need members of the church to bake cookies. we
hope someone will take charge of that as well.

The Furnace Fund is taking shape with the help of you. We
received \$700.00 designated for the furnace and an increase
of \$50.00 from other members. As you can see there are
those who wish to help with repairs and are doing so.
Won't you help out as well?

WANTED - Volunteers to help the the Neighborhood Crime
Watch Program. If you may be interested in helping out
please contact the Police Department of the City who is
in charge of this. *HOWARD McCLAREN INFO*

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN TELEVISION SYSTEMS (ACTS) is now carried
on Channel 30 in the Butler area. ACTS will be the net-
work for faith and family. Check out the ACTS Channel
and see for yourself the quality of our programming and
the potential the network offers.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond the God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or seek counseling.
The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - SEPTEMBER 17, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

MEETING THURSDAY SEPT. 22, TO MAKE PLANS
HAYRIDE OCT. 2, FOR EVERYONE YOUNG/OLD/IN TWEEN

*HYMN

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE

PRAYER/OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 6:1-8

SERMON: "BEHIND THE EXTERNALS"

*HYMN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

⁵⁰⁷
HARTIN 2

HART

SCRIP: GENESIS 6:1-8; SRM: "BEHIND THE EXTERNALS"

(ILUS PEARL HARBOR & TH/REST OF TH/STORY")

THER MANY INCIDS LIK THIS

WE KNO EXTERNALS ,BUT NO KNO WAT BHIND THOZ EXTERNALS
WIF PORTINS SCRIP LIK THIS,KNO STORY & MAY KNO WEL,
JT 2OFT NO KNO EXTRNL =THAT WH/BHIND TH/EXTERNALS

SCRIP THIS MORN CASE IN PT

WAT JUS READ & R LK AT GEN 6, INCIDEN LEAD 2 G'S DECISIN 2

OBLITERAT MAN FR/FACE OF EPTH

BUT NOAH & HIS FAMLY 2B SPARD

WHY? WAT WAS REAL REASN BHIN THIS???

(LK BOOK DEUT 7:1-40

NOW FOLC INCID INVOLV CAIN /ABEL READ VSS 25-26 - 4TH CHAP GEN

NOTIC= MEN BGAN 2CALL UPON TH/NAME OF TH/LORD

THIS MENT MEN ONCE AGIN TURN BAK 2GOD

THINGS WER ON UPSWING & ENTIR 5TH CHAP TELS THZ MEN/FAMLYS &
THER LIVS

BUT THEN READ CHAP 6:

VSS 1-2=THER SEVRL INTERPS OF THIS

FIRST: "SONS OF GOD"-WER FALLEN ANGELS

THIS CAN'T B TRU BCUZ ANGELS WER CREATD SEPRAT & DISTINC
FR/ALL HUMAN BEINGS

SINC THEY G'S SPECIL CREATIN THEY WER UNABL 2PROCREAT LIK

HUMANS & THIS WAT DEF TAK PLACAS CHAP 6 PT OUT

SO "SONS OF G" MUS MEAN THOZ WHO FOLLOWRS OF GOD

SIMPL AS THAT = G'S PEO

BUT PROB HERE IS THEY INTRMARRY W/UNGODLY PAGNS WHO LI/RND THEM

G TAKS THIS MATTR OF INTRMARAG SERTUSLY

WHAT WHY HE TOL PEO IN BUK DEUT THEZ MARAGS WUD TURN TH/GODLY
NTO UNGODLY

IN OTHR WORDS-TH/UNGODLY WUD REDUC TH/GODLY 2THER LEVEL

THIS WHY G REPEATEDLY WARNS TH/ISRITES 2REFRAIN FR/MIX W/UNGODLY
NEIGHBORS MEET ALONG TH/WAY

THIS PART SATANS PLAN ,HIS TOELES TO WEAKN G'S PLAN

THIS WHY P TEL PEO IN IN CORINTH NOT TO B YOKED W/UNBLIEVRS

SO WAT WAS IT THAT CAUSED TH/GODLY 2MARRY TH/UNGODLY???

VS 2a=THEY SAW THER BEAUTY & WER BLINDED 2TH/FACT THEY WER

UNGODLY,PAGANS,UNBLIEVRS

(ILUS PICTUR NEWSPAPER & NUMBERING OF COLLEGE CO-EDS)

THIS EXAMPL OF OUR SOCIETY,BUT SOCIETY IN OUR SCRIP SAME THING

THOZ WHO WER BLIEVRS WER USING THER EYES 2DETERM WH GIRL 2

chooz as a wif

THER IS TREMENDUS PRESSUR 2LK AT TH/ETERNALS W/OUT LK AT WAT
BHIND TH/EXTERNALS

THIS INTRMARAG CAUS G 2ACT DECIISIVLY IN HISTRY OF WORLD

FIRST READ: VS 3=G SAY HE GRO WEAR FOIBLS OF MAN

PREDICT MAN ONLY GOING 2SURVIV NOTHR 120 YRS

VSS 4-5=THIS END RESULT OF THOZ INTRMARAGS=SIN/EVIL/WICKEDNES

SO G IS GRIEVED & WE READ

VSS 6-8=G'S PLAN IS 2DESTROY ALL BUT 1FAMLY & START OVR

NOAH & HIS FAMLY WER GODLY & WER TH/CHOSN ONES

BUT AFTR TH/FLUD & ERTHS DESTRUCTIN IT WASNT LONG B4 MAN WAS

SINNING & TURNING AWAY FR/G AGIN

SATAN ALWAYS APPEARS 2WIN OUT,OR AT LEAS IT APPEARS THAT WAY

(G'S OF G'S PLAN & OTHER SIDE IS WINNING)

TH/FR/THEZ EVENTS G INSTRUC THOZ WHO BACM PARENTS 2ACPT

TH/RESPONSIBILTY WH/RITEFULLY THERS

IT BCAM THER RESPONSIBILTY 2TEACH THEM ALL TH/THINGS WH/WER RT,

& 2AVOID TH/THINGS THAT WER WRONG

DEUT 6:6-9=READ THIS SCRIPTURE

DEUT. 7:1-4

WAT G TOL HIS PEO THIS TIM, WAS WAT TAK PLAC INCID GEN 6

FIRST: ADAM SIN & TURN FR/GOD

THEN G GIV SATAN PROMIS CONCERN HIS ULTIMAT DEMIS

THRU TH/SEED OF A WOMAN

THEN CAIN KILL ABEL & THIS START OF WAR SATAN BGAN

2 WAGE 2C THAT PROM SEED OF A WOMAN WUD NO CUM 4TH

& FULFIL G'S PROM - HIS WORD

BACK PAGE 1)

DEUT 6:6-9=READ THIS SCRIPTUR

G'S PLAN WAS STIL THAT A SEED FROM A WOMAN WUD CUM 4th

but until then g had 2LV MAN 2HIS OWN DEVICES W/OUT STEP IN &
DESTROY HIM AGIN, WH/G CUD EASILY HAV DUN

WAT WE R LK AT THEZ SCRIPS IS THAT MARRYING, OR NOT MARRYING
MUSB DUN IN G'S WILL

OUR SOCIETY PLACES TH/VALUES ON LOOKS, ROMANC, LIVING HAPLIT
EVER AFTR, FANCY WEDDINGS, & DREAMS & ILLUSIONS OF TH/PERFECT
WEDDING, PERF MATE, ETC.

BUT LIF, ALL OF IT, WTHR INVOLVE MARAG OR NOT, A CAREER, A JOB
OR ANYTHING, MUST BE LIVED BY WAT G WANTS US TO DO

WE CAN ALWAYS FOLO OUR OWN DESIRS & BLIEV THEM 2B RITE

BUT WE MUS ALWAYS ASK SELVS=IS THIS WAT G WANTS ME 2DO???

IF WE CAN HAV A SP PEACE ABOUT TH/SITUATIN W/OUT CONTINULY
ARGUING W/OURSELVES ABOUT TH/RITNES OR WRONGNES OF IT, THEN WE
CAN BLIEV IT IS WAT G WANTS

BUT IF OUR ANSR STIRS UP MOR ANXIETY MWE BETTR REMEDY IT B4

IT IS 2LATE

THER R 2MANY MEN & WOMEN WHO HAV ENTRED MARAG LOOKING ONLY AT
THE ROMANC OF TH OCASIN ONLY 2SUFFR GILT TH/REST OF THER LIVS

R WE DOING WAT WE CAN - TEACHING WAT WE SHUD - RAISING OUR
CHILDRN AS WE SHUD ACORDING TO WAT G WANTS????

2OFT WE R INCLIND 2BLIEV WE WE DO NOT COUNT & WE R OF NO INFLUENC

(ILUS OF THE CHAIN OF CONVERSION)

FR/THIS SIMPL ILUWS OF THOZ WHO LIVD 4 GOD WE CAN C TH/CHAIN
REACTIN WH/TUK PLAC

IF EVR PERSN WHO CLAIMS 2B A BLIEVR WUD SEEK 2DO ALL HE/SHE
POSSIBLY CUD 2LIV COMPLETELY 4GOD, THIS CHAIN REACTIN WUD TH/RULE
& NOT TH/EXCEPTIN

ALL THAT G EVR DESIRD OF ANYONE IS OBEDIENC
AS U LK AT UR LIF U KNO TH/EXTERNALS, & MANY OTHRS DO AS WEL

BUT WAT R TH/THINGS BHIND TH/EXTERNALS??

R THEY EVENTS & CIRCUMSTANCES THAT R GOD PLEASING??

R THEY EVENTS & CIRCUMSTANCES THAT R GOD HONORING???

THOZ THINGS R KNOWN BY G & US INDIVIDULY

G FULFILD HIS PLAN THRU TH/SEED WH/WAS JS XP

WE HAV TH/OPORTUNITY 2LIV 4HIM AS HE DIRECTS

WAT IS BHIND OUR EXTERNALS IN THIS LIFE WE LIVE??

(this guy came in his apartment)
 got him
 got him
 he said
 (this unscheduled beauty contest)
 well
 you know
 (the end)
 (end diff)
 (this chair, read in conversation)

1. The first step in the process of the investigation is to identify the problem. This is done by the investigator who is assigned to the case. The investigator will then conduct a thorough search of the records to find out what has happened. This is done by looking at the records of the hospital, the police, and the courts. The investigator will also talk to the people who are involved in the case. This is done to get a better understanding of what has happened. The investigator will then write a report of what has happened. This report will be used by the court to decide what to do about the case.

[illegible]

$$2 \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}^{-1} \quad \text{for } \text{H}_2\text{O} \quad \text{and } 1.2 \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

There are many such incidents of like kind. We know the externals, but we don't know the things which are behind those externals. Different portions of literature are like this as well. We know the stories, and perhaps we know them very well, but what we don't know after all is that which is "behind the externals."

At the back of consciousness at a later time, led gave those directions as recorded in the 1st chapter, verses 1 through 4, (read this section). What led told His people at this time was what had taken place in this incident in the 1st chapter of Genesis. First, Adam had sinned and turned from God. God gave His prophecy to Adam concerning his offspring, coming through the seed of a woman. Then Cain killed Abel. This was the start of the way

There are several interpretations of this. One is that the "Hosts of God," were fallen angels but this can't be because angels were unable to incarnate and the following verses tell us definitely that this took place. The interpretation is that the "Hosts of God," were those

and were followers of God. It's as simple as that. They were God's people. But the problem was that they were intermarrying with the ungodly pagans who lived around them. God takes the matter of intermarriage seriously. That is why He told the people as recorded in the book of Leviticus that these marriages would turn the godly to the ungodly. In other words, the ungodly would reduce the godly to their level. This is why God repeatedly warned the Israelites to refrain from mixing with the ungodly neighbors they encountered along the way. This is Satan's tool to weaken God's plan. This is why Paul told the Corinthians to not be yoked together with unbelievers. So what was it that caused the Godly to begin to marry the ungodly and turn from God? In the 2nd verse we read, "The men of war like the daughters of the men of men that they were fair."

They saw their beauty and that was what blinded them.

[Illustration of picture is newspaper clipping of the college go-down] A picture appeared in a newspaper not too long ago. A group of guys were sitting around the edge of the fountain on a well-known state university. As people walked by, the guys would lift up a number from the stack of cards on their legs and rate the girl on a scale of 1-10. This unscheduled beauty contest probably makes a lot of girls find another way to class.

But that is a good example of not only our society, but society as it was back in this ~~Scripture~~ Scripture. Those who were believers, were using their eyes to determine which girl to choose as a wife. There is tremendous pressure to look at the outside without looking at what is "behind the veil."

This intermarriage caused God to act decisively in the history of the world. Nine times we read, (read verses 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20) that He is growing weary of looking on with the children of men. He had thought that man was going to only survive another 120 years on the earth. The men had women, (read verses 1-10), point out what happened because of these intermarriages. So God is grieved and we read, (read verses 1-10). God's plan is to destroy the creation and start over with just one family, and He did this. But after that it wasn't too long and man was starting to turn from God all over again. Satan always seems to win out, or at least it appears that way. And God could not keep on destroying the earth, and the people. Thus, from these events God instructed them who became parents to accept the responsibility that was rightfully theirs. It became their responsibility to raise their children by teaching them all the things that were right and to avoid the things that were wrong. In Genesis chapter the 4th chapter we read again, verses 1 through 9, (read those).

God's plan was still that a Seed would come from a Woman, but until then God had to ~~leave~~ ^{leave} man to his own devices without stepping in and destroying him, which God could have easily done. That we are looking at in these scriptures is the marrying, or not marrying what we done in God's will. Our society places the value on looks, romance, living happily ever after and so on. But life, all of it, whether it involves marriage, a career, or what have you, must be lived by doing what God wants us to do. We can always follow our own desires and believe them to be right. But we must always ask ourselves, "Is this what God wants of me?"

If we can have a spiritual peace about the situation, then we can know it is from God. But if our answer only brings up more anxiety, then we better seek a remedy before it is too late. There are too many men & women who have entered marriage looking only at the romance

1 LU 3
SATAN IS
WINNING

of the cross on, only to suffer guilt the rest of their lives. We must look "Behind the Internals."

Are we doing what we can, teaching what we should, raising our children as we should, according to what God wants? Too often we are inclined to believe that we do not count and we certainly cannot be of much influence.

(Illustration of the Chain of Conversion)

In 1887 a Sunday School teacher named Simball led a 12 year-old shoe salesman to Jesus Christ. In turn he was a Sunday School teacher leading other youth to Christ. Later he became a world renowned evangelist. His name was Wright L. Moody. He led hundreds of thousands to Christ in this country and England. Though poorly educated, on one of his English trips, he influenced the well-educated and avowed theologian F. D. Meyer to change his preaching style and emphasis. Later, F. D. Meyer came to the United States on an evangelistic tour and on one occasion a discouraged preacher, Wilbur Chapman was in the audience. Through Meyer's preaching he was influenced to become an evangelist. As his evangelistic ministry increased he secured an assistant. He he hired a former baseball player with a high school education to help him. His name was Billy Sunday. He won over 1 million people to Christ. In 1904, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Billy Sunday preached a revival; a prayer group was formed, which met regularly. When the prayer session started they became convinced it was God's judgement on the nation. They prayed for another revival, and answered it was answered. Later, when he became an evangelist, and he was preaching, a 12 year-old boy was converted by the name of William Franklin Graham. Billy Graham has preached to millions of ordinary people as well as kings, presidents and prime ministers. And it all started with a Sunday School teacher named Simball. Would he or any of the others have failed to do what God wanted of them?

Now this whole illustration of the chain of conversion is the chain of conversion which God has planned. If every person who claims to be a Christian would realize he is all that he is, he would be able to live differently for the whole chain reaction would be the same instead of the exception. All that God ever did was for the whole chain reaction was answered, as you look at your life you know the "Internals," and each of us know just as well if we are associated with you. And what are the things "Behind the Internals" are your events and circumstances which are God-fearing and God-fearing? These things are known to God and we.

And fulfilled His plan as he promised through your Christ. We are His sons. We have the opportunity to live for Him as He lives.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor July 24, 1966
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Ray Gamble and Nicole Morrison
+ + + + + ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M. + + + + +

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Opening Hymn No. 98 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, send thy Spirit with
fire and zeal into our sinful lives. We confess our
brokenness in thy Church; the dissension we have
perhaps caused by unbelief, or disobedience to thy
Word. Grant us a new Spirit to live for thee and to
overcome the temptations we so often fall victim to;
cleanse us and forgive us again. Through Jesus
Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 467 "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Scripture: Genesis 10:32-11:9
Sermon: "Division Equals Subtraction"
*Invitational Hymn No. 455 "I Am Thine, O Lord"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

Our greeters at the door this morning are Mr. & Mrs. Jim
Gannon. Welcome members and friends!
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mrs. Phyllis Tait and Beth in memory of Bob Tait.
Ushers serving today are Dick Mangel, George Pflugh, Don
Kingsley and Dick Dally.
Attendance last Sunday was 75 with 6 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Shirley Link.
Bill Pflugh and Paul Campbell will be visiting the
hospital this week.
> Hospitalized: Mrs. Ann Williams in BMH.
DATES TO REMEMBER:
July 29 - 7:00 P.M. Finance Committee meeting
Aug. 1 - 7:00 P.M. Benevolence Committee meeting
> The Furnace Fund is being greatly responded to. In last
weeks offering we received \$1,020.00 designated for
the furnace. This shows you that we can do it and we
all need to pull together to get the job done. Won't
you consider helping with this project.
> Liturgists are needed to serve while the Pastor is away
next month. If you feel God move you in such a way
to serve, please contact the office before the draft
takes effect.
We need to thank Bob Weisenstein for serving as Liturgist
last Sunday. Thanks for a job well done!
> VBS Mission project is still open until the end of the
month. If you would like to help some unfortunate
child go to a summer camp and learn about Jesus, you
may do so by putting your contribution into the big
piggy bank sitting in the rear of the church. So far
we have \$134 and need \$200.00.
> Next Sunday we will have a table set up in the Narthex
where you can sign up for the blood drive that is being
held on August 23rd. Times are from 1 to 5 P.M.
Also if you would like to volunteer your help for that
day you may do so by seeing Ginny. Check your
calendar and come sign up. We will have the signing
up sheet for July 31 and August 7th, then we must
turn it in. Please consider this and help out.
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate or seek
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - SEPT 25, 1994

Prelude

Greeting/UCYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

NEXT SUNDAY - OCT 2, COMMUNION
HAYRIDE AT 2PM : *8:00 AM - 5:00 PM*
AFTER HAYRIDE WEINER ROAST - bring own
buns, weiners, & 2 liter pop
signup sheet for those going on wagon,
& those who will be off the wagon
Saturday - OCT 29, HALLOWEEN PARTY 7:00 PM
COMMITTEES - FOOD: PAM & MABEL
GAMES: JOANN
DECORATING: BILL
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, THANKSGIVING DINNER, WILL BE
PASSING A MENU
FRIDAY NOV 11, YOUTH LOCK IN

HYMN
RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE
PRAYER/OFFERING
*DOXOLOGY
PASTORAL PRAYER
HYMN
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 10:32-11:9
SERMON: "DIVISION EQUALS SUBTRACTION"

*HYMN
*BENEDICTION
*POSTLUDE

HAIR - ANSWERED PRAYERS --
UNPICKED - MADE
TEAR

CHARLOTTE
THANKY

HEAR'S PRAYERS

SERMON: GEN 10:32-11:9; SERM: "DIVISION EQUALS SUBTRACTION"

THIS MORN WILL SHAP WHENOM DEEYS MATH AS WE KNO IT=DIV = SUB
(THIS SCHOOL SUPT & DETERIORATION OF MESAG)
PICTURE 186 MONST PRQI=HUGE TOWR ERRE OF BPIK: DAY AFTR DAY GO HIGH
SENE PRID, ACOMP EYERS BY AL AS TOWR TAK SHAP

SAM & AARON ON SCAF=NEED MOR BPIKS: AARON ANSP NO UNWSTUD
TURN TO RUDY BCIDE HIM & SAY=I BLIEV AARON BIN IN SUN TOO LNG
BUT REELY NOT INTELGIBL FIFTH & SUDNLY NO ONE UNDRST OTHRS
INQID FR/SCRIP: CHAPS 9-10 RECORD HISTRY NOAH & FANLY

10:32=THEY WEP DIVID ACCRD CLANS/TRIBES & LANGUAG
WIL C CONTINUATIN SATANS ATAKS 2DESTRY G'S PEAN FROM SEED
DID INDIVID W/ADAM & EVE, THEN CAIN, THEN NOAH & NOW COLLECTIVLY
2PREVENT THIS G HAD COMAN PEO 2SPRED OUT
CHAP 9:1=NO MEAN JUS HAV CHILDREN, MENT SPRED OUT INHABIT EARTH
SO WAT DID THEY DO???

VSS 1-2=SHINAR WAS NIN OTHR THAN ANCIENT BABYLON
SO PEO OF GOD REDY 2TAK FALL
VS 13= VERY 1ST THING WAS 2GO AGIN G'S PLAN 4THEM

$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x}$

Scripture: Genesis 7:12 - 17:

(Illustration of communication breakdown - I suppose parents who do it like I do) had to say, this is a prime example of communication between people who playfully, shame if you will, a large construction project going on. A huge tower is being erected out of bricks. Day by day the new tower and the tower goes higher and higher. There is a sense of pride, of accomplishment expressed by all of the people as their beloved tower slowly but surely takes shape. Then one day, Samuel is on the scaffold and is able to reach for more bricks. But the answer tower gives is not construction by Samuel. He jokingly turns to his buddy laying bricks beside him and says, "Boy I've done tower's been over in the last few days," and so laughs. But his buddy in reply also cracks in an unintelligible manner. Indeedly, no one has understood anyone else, whatever conversation being held is spoken in very different languages and so one can communicate.

No incident of harm to men or livestock. Chapters 9 and 10 record the history of the 4 families who remained in the last camp of the 10th chapter. (see this). They were listed according to their place of origin, and their families, which Chapter 11 gives as the reason for the migration.

And the first answer to the people and to the 1st verse of the 2nd chapter we read, -
"And this shall be the seed of the woman, who shall bruise the serpent's head." After the Flood, the people were to fill the earth. This doesn't mean
that they were to just have children, but they were to spread out and subdue the earth.
And that's what the people did, gathered in one place. And so that didn't come after the
Flood, it was before. It was that the people were to fill the earth. And that's the meaning of
the plan because if all of the population was gathered at one place for association of
kindness was bound to develop. Adam had all of humanity in one place, with one language
and that it was easier for him to tell his life and thought what God had promised to do, then
the rest of mankind. As you can see, this first plan list contains God's plan and that's
God's plan in the chapters of Genesis.

That continues to take place in this early history is when's allowed to identify God's plan of a promised Seed from a woman. He did this individually with Adam and Eve, then Cain, Noah, and now he does it collectively. He present this lot had commanded that the people were to spread out. In the 1st verse of the 9th chapter we read, "And the blessed seed, and his sons, and said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth."

This didn't mean that they were to just have children. It meant that they were to spread out and inhabit the earth. They were not to be gathered at just one place. But what did they do? They began to do what God had told them to do, (Gen 1:28 & 9:1). This was fine as far as they went. But this plain which they came to was "thin" and there was nothing else there except Babylon. So right at this point, these people of God were ready to take a fall.

What did this inviting stretch of land bring forth? "And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and build a tower, and a city, and let us be famous for evermore.' And they said, 'Come, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven.' (Genesis 11:1-4).

In this helpless state, the obvious solution would seem to be that the people would turn back to God. But the Bible at this point chooses not to reveal that information. All that we know is that man has been led to overcome the language barrier and today in our world with all of our communications abilities, Satan's lies entangle the world in sin. But even in the midst of our own towers of Babel, and in the midst of seeking names for our selves, God has given us the fulfillment of His promise and we learn from Isaiah that God is glorifying in it to love us.

Illustration of widow and the "Love of God around us" (1960)

A pastor tells of a widow in his congregation coming to his one Sunday morning after the church service. Her husband had suddenly and tragically been taken from her. She told me much of God's love and that He never made mistakes, but she said what she knew in her heart was not what she felt in her heart. All of her friends tried to comfort her with words about God's goodness, His love, and so on. But all of this didn't have any effect on her. But then one Sunday, a friend walked up to her and said nothing at all. That friend put her arms around her and held her tight. She told her pastor, "It was like the arms of God around my life."

And all the well-meaning and misguided that go around us, and is still there seeking to put her arms around us. He was there in the plain of Shinar and He will be there in every individual who ever looks to be his own god. Are you self-satisfied with your particular life? Are your accomplishments there about because you are so smart, so intelligent, so talented? Or is everything about you because of God's love? Reach out to His today and thank Him for all that you owe and have. Feel those arms of love around you and know that all He wants is your love.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor July 31, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Nicole Morrison and Ray Gamble

+ + + + + ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Opening Hymn No. 337 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Almighty God, our Father: you created us for life together. We confess that we have turned from your will. We have not loved one another as you commanded. We have been quick to claim our own rights and careless of the rights of others. We have taken much and given little. Forgive our disobedience, O God, and strengthen us in love, so that we may serve you as a faithful people, and live together in your joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Kyrle

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 35 "Near to the Heart of God"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-9

Sermon: "Stepping Stones"

*Invitational Hymn No. 462 "Living for Jesus"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gannon in memory of Loved Ones.

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Weisenstein will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushers for today are Marge Smiley, Deb Melton, Genny Nohach and Lucille Tack.

Attendance last Sunday was 111 with 21 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Kelly Mangel and Lori Weisenstein.

Ben Vensel and Herb Shearer will be visiting the hospital this week.

> DATES TO REMEMBER: Aug. 1 - Benevolence meeting at 7 P.M.
The Mary Prugh picnic will be held Monday evening at 6:00 at Betty Tressler's home. Bring a tureen and a white elephant gift for bingo.

> Cookies, Cookies and more Cookies are need for the August 23rd Blood Drive here in Rehoboth Hall. If you would like to bake some, please let Peg McClymonds know. Also please take a minute today and next Sunday to sign up to donate blood, or see Ginny. Let's make this a better effort than the past couple of years. Time is 1 - 5 P.M. Flowers are needed for the altar on August 28 and September 11th. Please take a minute and sign up now.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

August 6th - Beach Party at Lake Erie, will be leaving the church at 8 a.m. and return at 7 p.m.

August 10th we are going to the Butler Farm Show at 6 P.M.

> We still are in need of Liturgists for the Sundays that the Pastor is on vacation. Please pray that God will direct your heart to do this work for Him.

Furnace Fund receipts from last Sunday totalled \$120.00

Lets all keep up the good work and soon we have a new heating system to show for it. WE CAN DO IT!!!

VBS Mission - today is the last day to contribute to our mission. Please make a deposit in the Big pig and help out our project.

The annual Country Market held at Sunnyview will be on August 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Details are on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 2, 1994

PRELUDE
GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

TODAY - HARVIE DETAILS
COMMUNION & FIRST SUN EVERY MONTH

DAILY BACON

*HYMN
RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE
PRAYER/OFFERING
*DOXOLOGY
PASTORAL PRAYER
HYMN
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 12:1-9 - ST. PAUL: 1 COR 13
SERMON: "STEPPING STONES" 7/21/94
*HYMN
*BENEDICTION
*POSTLUDE

COMMUNION

RALY - FAMILIAR

RICHARD

ETHEL

WILSON - JERRY

HARRIS - BOB

BILL

EMILY

TEAN

SCRIP: GEN 12:1-9; SERMON: "STEPPING STONES"

(ILUS JESSICA MITFORD, DAD-LIBRARY & READING BOOKS)

EXAM SUMONE SATISFY WHEN IS & NO INTENTIN OF MOV ON
(ILUS DAVID, MISHAPS & HAPNES AT FIND QUART)

ESME BOY SHO PROMIS -REGARDLES CIRCUM FIND SUMTH WORTHWHIL
TAK LIP ONE STEP AT TIME & ABE LIE THIS

LFE KNC & UNKNC, LFE FREDS ALL FAMIL & UNFAMILIAR
JUPNY 21AND WH/NO REVEAL LIFTIM FROMS MADE 2THM

ABE SET APART FR/ORD INDIVID BY FACT HE NOT SATISFYD
HE CUD HAV SET- "I'M NOT BOUT 2TRAVL FR/HOMELAND AT 75"

BUT DIDNT & G ABL PUSE HIM MITELY

BCUZ ABE TUK G AT HIS WORD, & STEP OUT WE TOL HE DID - BY FAITH
BY DO THIS, LIF TUK ON 3 DIMENSINS

HE STEP OUT & BY SO DO, GAV US THREE STEPPING-STONES WE NEED
AS WE WALK W/GOD

VS & NO WHER READ ABE BARGAIN W/GOD * I DO THIS, IF U DO THAT
IT FLAT OUT CHED W/NO CONDITINS - OBEDIENCE

(ILUS BOY NO EAT FRUNES, THUNDER STORM)

G BOSS OUR LIVS & NEED KNC IT

MUS LET HIM CAL SHOES DAY BY DAY

WHTR FINANC, FAMILY RELATSHIPS, JOBS, SKUL ANY CIRCUMS,

LK JC MUS SAY, THY WIL B DUN, NOT MINE

VSS 5-6-2ND STEP STONE -PRESISTENCE

BUN HEBREWS TOLD - ABE DIDNT IK BAK

CAN U PICTUR UR MIND LV ALL FAM, COMP & NICE & GO FOREIGN LAND

W/O CONV & ALL U 4MERLY HAD???

PICTUR OF ABE; OUTSID TENT, PACE & BAY-I MIS OLD FREDS/COMP &

SAPA ANSRS=SAM GO 4ME:DO/U THINK I LJK COCK OPEN FIRE, WEN

MAIDS BAK IN WUD DO IT FOR ME??

ALL HE HAD WAS PROM FRAG, & HE TRUS/BLEIV & KEEP PLUS DAY BY DAY

THIRD STEP STONE

VS 7-RESULTS

ABE PROMTS AROUND LIFELINE

FR/HIM G WUD PRODUC EVENUL SEED FR/SEIC WOMN WHO WUD OVRCOM

FATAN & DEFSAT SIN & DEFT

NO DATELINE, NUTH SED WHTHR TAK DIAC LIFTIM

UT ABE ACPT & READ

7B=HE WORSHIP G

ABE ACPT WAT G SAY AT FACE VALF & BLIEV G WUD PRODUC RESULTS

NOT NORMAL = NORMAL IS "SHOW ME" "PRUV IT"

EXAMP GIDEON & ASK 4TRUF

FAITH DEMANDS BLIEV & ACPT

CAN U ACPT XXX G'S CAL ON UR LIF?

CAN U DO WAT HE WANTS & ASKS W/OUT QUEST??

MUD U B WIL WORK LNG/HARD & C LITTL OR NO RESULTS??

(ILUS GRAD BTEL COLEG & CH PLANTING)

G DUNNT ASK US 2B EXTREMLY GIPTD 2USE US

NOR MW HE REQUIR EDUCATIN

WAT HE DUZ REQUIR IS AVAILBLITY & 2B WIL 2STEP OUT HIS NAME

HE CAN & WIL USE US IF WE WIL TAK 1ST STEP & REPORT 4DUTY

ABE'S FAITH WAS REWARD LNG AFTP PAS THIS ERTNLY SCENE

BUT WHIL HE LIV, HE LIV FOR GOD

R WE WIL 2B ACPT G'S INVITATIN 2B USED AS STP STONES 4HIM?

STEPPING OUT FOR GOD IS ALWAYS STEPPING UP.

"Stopping Stones"

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-5

(Illustration of Jessica Mitford and her aristocratic father)

Jessica Mitford who is an author in her own right tells of her father's library. She said it was enormous. The books had been passed down from generation to generation, but her father never read a book. As an aristocratic Englishman he simply said, "I read 'White Fang' by Jack London. Good book," he said. "Believe it. I don't see any point in reading another."

This is an example of someone who is satisfied where he is and has no intention of moving on.

(Illustration of David, his sickness and his happiness at finding a quarter)

David, a second grader was boarding the bus one morning and was buried. This created a two inch cut on his cheek. It seems he collided with another boy and two of his teeth were knocked loose. At noon, while sitting on the ice, he fell and broke his wrist. Later at the hospital his father noticed that he was clutching something in his ~~xxxxx~~ good arm. He asked him what it was and David proudly held up a shiny quarter. He said, "I found it on the ground when I fell. This is the first quarter I ever found. This sure is my lucky day."

There is a boy who shows promise. No matter what the circumstances, no matter how bleak the situation he could find something worthwhile. Here is a lad who is taking one step at a time. Abraham was a man like this. For him there was one step at a time even steps leading into the unknown. He left all that was familiar, all of his friends, and he journeyed to a land that was only the beginning of that which ~~xxxxx~~ and would reveal even long years after his death. The thing that distinguishes Abraham from the ordinary is the fact that he was not satisfied. He would have said that he was not about to travel from his home in Urland at his advanced age of seventy-five.

Abraham was the man God was going to use to carry on His plan which would ultimately be fulfilled at a later time. God never told Abraham that he would live forever. He came to pass that God had promised. So we are told from Scripture that "My faith," Abraham is this and in so doing we can see that his life took on three dimensions. He stepped out with God and in so doing gave to us the "Stopping Stones" we need to walk with God as well.

His first step was one of obedience. Look at the ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ 5th verse of this chapter and you see, "So Abram consented as the Lord had spoken unto him." Hoshens does it say that Abraham bargained with God and said, "I'll do this, if you will do this." It was flat out obedience, with no conditions.

(Illustration of little boy and prunes, not eating two)

Here is a story of a little boy whose mother served prunes once in a while for dessert. He hated prunes with a purple passion and his mother was always after him to eat them when served. She would use the form of discipline like "God will get angry at you if you don't eat the prunes."

One night she served stewed prunes for dessert and he was down to the last two prunes in his dish. He was determined that nothing was going to make him eat those last two prunes. So the struggle between mother and son began to be waged. She said, "God doesn't like little boys who don't eat their prunes." But he wasn't going to budge and she knew it. So she finally said, "All right, go up to bed this instant. You have been a very bad boy and God will be very angry." A few minutes later a thunderstorm broke loose - lightning flashed in all over the sky and thunder clapping loudly. The mother thought the boy would be terribly frightened so she went to his room to comfort him. There he was with his face pressed against the window saying over and over, "Oh, my, such a fuss to make over two little prunes."

and in the face of our lives and we need to know that. We must let Him tell the story as we live day by day. Whether it is financial, family relationships, our jobs, or any circumstance, our response must always be as Jesus taught us, "Thy will be done, not mine."

The second "Stepping Stone" that Abraham gave evidence of is that of persistence. We read in the 5th and 6th verses, (read these). In the book of Hebrews it tells us that Abraham didn't look back. Can you picture in your mind going from what you know as comfortable and nice and taking a journey to a foreign place without all of the conveniences you formerly had? I can picture Abraham out in front of his tent from time to time pacing back and forth and Sarah asks, "What's wrong Aba?" And he answers, "I miss all our old friends and the conveniences we had back in Ur." And Sarah answers, "Well, the same goes with me. Do you think I like cooking over this open fire when my maids would have been doing the cooking back home." But it was persistence that kept Abraham going. He didn't know what all of this was leading up to. All he had was the promise from God whom he trusted and believed and so he kept plugging on day by day.

The third "Stepping Stone" that Abraham gives to us is that of Results. God said to him as we read in the 7th verse, "Unto thy seed will I give this land." Abraham was promised an abundant lineage. From him God would produce the even greater seed from a selected woman who would overcome Satan once and for all. There was no deadline given; there was nothing said about whether all of this would come so fast in his lifetime. But Abraham accepted it, and we also read in this 7th verse, "And there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him."

What God had told Abraham was accepted at face value and all that he believed was that God would produce the results. This isn't the normal way of doing things. Normalcy demands evidence instead of blind faith. Normalcy demands a "show me" attitude, and then I'll believe. "Where's it God, and I'll follow wherever You say lead." Look at the story of Hagar. There was a servant of God but in order to believe that God was really in this situation, he asked for a sign from God. When God gave the answer with a sign, Hagar didn't believe it and demanded still another sign. Now I'm not saying that Hagar was all wrong in doing this. The faith demands that we simply believe and accept what God is giving. The whole "show me" attitude is one that has stunted more Christian initiative than anything else. "Let you accept God's call on your life and go and do what He asks of you without question, or the demand for His complete stamp of approval." Would you be willing to work long and hard for His Lord and see little or no results over a period of time. Remember all are His people because we accept faith.

(Illustration of graduate of small Mid-western Bible College and church planter)

A graduate of a small Midwestern Bible College felt led to take a church planting opportunity in a northern logging camp. He went door to door in the camp and door after door was closed in his face. He had to hear the taunting of the people, "A Sunday School here? This is a toughplace preacher. We don't need a Sunday School."

But he persisted. Amongst one of those doors was a boy who asked permission to go to Sunday School. And then another boy went as well. Those two boys accepted Christ and both went on to Bible College where one felt called to missions and the other to youth work. He was sent to England where a recently converted apostolic doctor would establish a hospital. This doctor wrote the book "Doctor," and many people who have read it have accepted Christ.

God also raised the youth worker in national recognition where he had impacted thousands of young lives. Neither of these men are known to us. Their names are not household words, but God has used their faith to produce results and only eternity will reveal just what those results are.

God doesn't ask for us to be extremely gifted or use us! Nor does He require that we be the most educated. What He does require is that we are available and we are willing to step out in His name. He can and will use us if we are willing to take the first step and report for duty. Abraham's faith was rewarded long years after his passing from the earthly scene. "While he lived, he lived for God. Are we willing to accept God's invitation to be used as "stepping stones" for Him? Stepping out for God is always stepping in."

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor August 7, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Meron Hewis and ToniJo Patsy

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Opening Hymn No. 5 "Morning Has Broken"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Our heavenly Father, who by Thy love hast made us, and through Thy love hast kept us, and in Thy love wouldst make us perfect, we humbly confess that we have not loved Thee with all our heart and soul, and mind, and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ hath loved us. Thy love is in us, but our selfishness hath hindered Thee. Forgive what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in Thy spirit direct what we shall be; that Thy image may come into full glory in us and in all men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 66 "God Will Take Care of You"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Scripture: Genesis 37: 1-11

Sermon: "The Friction Faction"

*Invitational Hymn No. 2 "How Great Thou Art"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. & Mrs. Gottlob Kradel in memory of their sisters.

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Mangel will greet the members of our congregation and our visitors.

Ushers for today are Marty Henry, Frank Crawford, Jeff Snyder and John Snow.

Attendance last Sunday was 115 with 16 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today.

Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized:

Dates to Remember:

August 23rd - Red Cross Blood Drive in Rehoboth Hall from 1 to 5 P.M. Take a minute and sign up or let Ginny know when you would like to come. Also if you could bake some cookies please see Peg McClymonds.

August 25th - a meeting of the Lay, Life & Work, Hospitality and Activities Committees will begin at 7:00 P.M. Please be there!!!

Dick
> Plans are in the making for our Annual Rally Day Luncheon to be held immediately following the service on September 11th. There has been a change in the menu. We are going to have a Salad Luncheon, so if you would be so kind to make a salad please contact Marilyn Snyder. More details to come, but sign up now to donate a salad.

> September is dessert month for us to help out Meals on Wheels. If you would like to bake and donate something, please check the list of what is needed that is hanging in the Narthex or see Joan Campbell.

> LITURGISTS are needed for the next four weeks. If you would like to assist with the service, please let Ginny know. We cannot use the same person all the time, so please be willing to serve your church. The Pastor will leave for his vacation this week, so if there is any need you have, please contact Ginny so she may help you out.

Furnace fund receipts from last Sunday totalled \$120.00.

Keep up the good work, we can do it!!!

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 9, 1994

PRELUDE
GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

Book 1011 - Book 1012

Yancy 476

Wendy Bonnie & Chad

*HYMN
RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE
PRAYER/OFFERING
*DOXOLOGY
PASTORAL PRAYER
HYMN
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 37:1-11
SERMON: "THE FRICTION FACTION" - *1 Thess 5:16-18*
*HYMN
*BENEDICTION
*POSTLUDE

Rich - House of David

Mary

Ursula - Helen - Tammy Jean

Bill

Jeff - Operation

OBERD THE NO MATTER WAT AGE
THER IS ALWAYS THAT WHICH WE SHUD DO,
& THER IS ALWAYS WAT WE CUD DO,
BUT IT SHUD ALWAYS B B4 WE DO ANYTH WE ASK=WAT DUZ G WANT ME 2D
.HRU ALL JOS WEN THRU
WATEVR MAY BIN HIS DISCOURAG,DESPAIR, HE CAM 2PT REALIZ HIS
LIF EXPERIENS PRE⁴JOB HAD IN EGYPT
JOS BROS THOT WATHR JOS WUD TURN ON THEM & PAY BAK
BUT CHAF 50:19-20 JOS SPK 2THEM

ALTHO G USE JOS MITELY & APEAR JOS WUD B TH/ONE THRU WHOM G'S
PLAN WUD FULFIL,
G USE CIRCUMS 2CONFOIND SATAN & FULFIL PLAN THRU JOS BNC JUDAH
G SHOWD HIS SVCRITY THRU ALL THIS,
& HE REVEAL WAT HE SEEKS FR/THOZ WHO R HIS
JOS MAY NOT BIN TH/ULTIMAT ONE,BUT HE WAS THOZ 2SERV PURP
.JOS LITTL GIRL & PAY 4PRESENT "ALL AT ONCE")
THER THOZ FEEL SAM BODY RITURNES
SINC NOT GET ALL AT ONCE,WAT'S USE OF TRYING???
BUT RITURNES IS GROWING DAY BY DAY
AS WE LIV EA DAY,WE STRIV 2B RITUS,BUT NEVR HAV IT ALL AT ON
(JESUS JOHN NEWTON & HIS PRAYER)
AS WE LIV OUR LIVES WE MAY NOT B ABL 2COMPLTLY JAY-^{BY} GRAC OF
G I AM WAT I AM,BONZ WE MAY FEEL WE R NOT WAT WE SHUD B
BUT G INVITES US 2STEP 4TH & FOLLO OUR SAV JS XP & SEEK AFTR
RITURNES
WE CAN ONLY DO THAT ONE STEF AT A TIME
W/APOS P WE 2MAY SAY AS WE FIND RECORD 2 COR 4:7-11

SCRIP: GEN 37:1-11; SERMON: "THE FRICTION FACTION"

(ILUS LATIN POET QUOTE & LAWS)

LAW & LAWS BIN W/MANK SINCE BEGIN TIME

AT BEGIN G SPRCK AD/EVE, GAV GUIDELINE & THEY BROK

DWN 2TODAY THER STILL LAWS & MANY UNWRITTN & THIS TRU IF PERSON

BLIEVR AS SCRIP PT OUT THIS MORN

37 BEGIN HISTORY JOS & IT BEGIN:

VS 2-JOS SHAP SHEP DUTYS, BUT NOT EVIL ACTING/DEEDS OF BROCS

JOS TOL FATHER & CAN G JOS HAD DESIR 2B RITUS

BCUZ JOS RITUSNES HE WAS IN OPPOSITIN PUNRITUSNES & CAUS TRUBI

ONE LESSN WE SHUD ALL LEEN IS=2LIV RITUSLY DUCNT GARAN TRUBI-FRE

IN FAC, RITUSNES INDUCES CRISIS BCUZ LIV IN DOMAIN G THIS WORLD

CUR LEVS AS XPIANS R SPENT SWIN AGIN GRAIN=SWIM UPSTREAM

2LIV AS XPIAN SEEK 2B RITUSWYN UNWRITUS WORL GREAT FRICTIN

THCS WHO UNWRITUS RESEN B REMIN OF IT R A FACTION AGIN XPIANTY

THUS HAV=FRICTION FACTION & UNWRIT LAW XPIANS MUS LIV WITH/BY

WORL MADEUP RITUS/UNWRITUS:SAVED/UNSAVED & NO MIDDLE GR

EA US ONE SIDE OR OTHER, WE MAK THAT CHOIC

(EXAMPL XPIANS & CONFLIC THIS & THUS = SILENT XPIANS)(ILUS OF)

JOS NOT SILENT BLIEVR & THIS CAUS FRICTIN AGIN EXCEIN OF BROCS

(EXAMPL OF JOS AS CHIEF ADVERSARY OF SATANS PLOT-KIL SEED/WOMAN)

CHAP 28:13-15

chap 28:13-15

AT PT IN CHAP 37 jacob had 12 SONS

ONLY ONE THY CONS STANS 4TH AS B RITUS

THIS ONE CUDE IN/ONE FR/WHOM TH/ONE SEED WUD CUM FROM

IN FAC, HE CUD EVN B TH/MESSIAH

THUS BEING TH/STROG SATAN HAD W/THIS SON THAT CUD ELIMINAT HIM

FR/WHOM G SEED WUD FULFIL

PERHAPS SATAN CUD EXTERMINAT THAT PROM AT THIS PT

WAL JOS WENT THRU CUDNT HELP BUT MAK DISCOURAG

LET STUD AGIN BROCS & WAS HONSE & WAT REWARD???

WUD JOS HAV ACTD AS DIL IF KNU END RESULT??

I THINK SO

HE WAS G'S MAN & WUD HAV OBEYED NO MATTER WAT

THIS IS WAT G WANTS

EA CIRCUW, EA INCIDENT OF LIF DEMAN OBED

WE MAY GRUMBL, BUT IF WE TRU 2 GOT, WE WIL OBEY

(ILUS TEEN AGER & WISDOM OF PARENTS).

(Ilus Law, Manilius - other)

37:2=Jes & bros

stance unpop & invol Frictin & agin Factin

(swim upstream)

Silent Xpians - Ilus bukster

5:1-5=explain

Msgs Gen - Seed-Messiah

28:13-15=prom 2 Jacob

Joseph reward - G ses=Man Gud boy Jes, now I'll

sell U in2 Egypt

(Ilus teen-ager & parents)

Obed wat G wants

Gen 50:19-20

"The Friction Faction"

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11
 (Iulus Manilius Latin poet & "All things obey fixed laws")
 (Iulus bout legal experts & laws)
 Laws & laws hav bin w/maank sinc Bgin ef tim
 4evn bak in Bgin G apk Ad/Ev gav gidlines 4ther livs wh/they
 so quickly brok
 as fr/thoz erly Bgins of law we find ther so many unwritn
 laws wh/felo us evn 2day
 this especil tru if persn is Blievr as Scrip pt out this morn
 chap 37 Gen Bgin histry Jos & 1st thing pt out fnd vs 2=READ
 Jos shar shep dutys w/bros, but ne shar evil actins/deeds of bro.
 watevr deeds wer, Jos tel fathr Jacob bout them
 fr/this very easly determ Jos had desir 4 ritusnes
 thus, it fr/this conclusia all bout 2chapn 2Jos is mor intriguing
 Jos go 2B displac fr/famly, sold 2liv forein land & b desert
 unjusly in forein prisen
 but in ea instanc it wilB his ritusnes wil bring this bout
 If ther l lean ea us shud lern erly in Xpian livs, it fac ritusnes
 durat garantee a trubl free lif
 ritusnes in fac, oft induces crisis if 4 ne othr reasn that liv
 in daimn of god of this worl-Satn
 our livs as Xpians are spent swim agin grain, or swim upstream
 Th/lif of a Xpian seek 2liv & B ritus in an evil/ungedly society
 creates fridtin in th/livs of th/unritus who then in turn seek
 2thro off this sorc wh/caus ther convictin that ther livs R not
 rite
 We cud then cal this=Frictin Factin wh/unwrit law all Xpians
 mus liv w/& by
 th/worl made up of ritus & unritus=th/savd & unsavd
 ther is no midl grnd
 U R eithr on 1 sid or th/othr, ea us mus mak choic
 unfortunately ther R 2many who want 2B Xpians, but they only
 want th/gud lif
 & sinc stan 4 Js Xp in an ungedly society is unpeplr 2say th
 leas, & sinc it bring probs, we hav 2many silent Xpians, Xpians
 who wil not stan up & B ceustd
 Jos, son of Jacob was not such a man
 he knu wen stud agin evil bros they wud seek 2="get evn"
 he knu his stanc was unpop, that it invelv frictin & he was
 encounter factin wh/wud retaliat, but he stud firm 4-G
 So wat dux his stan tel us?
 That it foolish 2swim upstream? 2fite agin injustic,
 & evil & wrong?
 (Exmpl of many peo sed=Ne fite battl agin bukster, no can win,
 etx, & many thez comments fr/oe cal-Xpian people)
 read lettrs 2edter & C wat swears/untruths sed beut=do-guddrs
 Yet mos thez writrs ne kno filth/corruptin tak plac in that so
 cal=littl concret blk bldg cles & destroy by thez "Xpians"

2/
 But G nevr sed our strugls wudB easy if walk w/Rim
 P pen words of G in Romans 5:1-5=READ
 If U no kno truth thez words then perhap U nevr bin invelv in
 fite agin evil & wrong
 I urg ea U 2get involv 2corec wrong, 2eradicat evil wher exist
 I' s then U wil kno th/trib that cum w/that stanc
 l U wil also lern th/patience only G can giv, that at sumtin in
 futur wil blossom in victry
 & then U wil rejoic & say=Thank G it was worth it all
 if we vu Jos lif fr/stantpt ef mesag of Gen wh/we hav bin lk at,
 we can C Jos qualifid 2Bcum th chief adversary ef Satns plot
 Jacob had receiv th/xxm prom ef th/cum Mesiah=28:13-15=READ
 Jacob now hse 12 sons & only 1 thez sons stanout as B ritus &
 this l cudB th/one fr/whem th/one Seed wud cum from
 It may evnB he is th/Mesiah
 thus Bgin th/strugl Satn has w/this son that cud easly eliminat
 him fr/that prom G sed He wud fulfil & perhap Satn cud exterminat
 that prom at this pt
 Wat Jos went thru cudnt help but mak his discourag w/lif
 lat-stud agin bros & was homes & wat was reward?
 G sed 2 Jos=Gud boy Jos, now I'll sel U in2 Egypt
 wud he hav act that way if knu end resul was sepratn fr/ faml:
 & slavery in Egypt?
 I think he wud hav Bcus he was G's man & he wud hav obey no matt
 wat
 this wat G wants
 we kno wat end resul wilB many times, but also kno situ deman
 obed, we may grumbl, but if tru 2-G & wat He want, we obey
 (Iulus teen-ager & strict parents, party & result ther wisdom)
 Obed is tuf, ne matt wat age U R, Bcus ther alway wat we shud do
 & ther is alway wat we cud do - But wat dux G WANT ME 2 DO?
 nu all conflic Jos went thru, watevr may bin his feels of dis-
 courag & despair, he cam 2pt he realiz all his lif expers had
 prep him 4 job he had in Egypt
 His bros Bliev aftr deth fathr Jacob, Jos wud turn on them 4
 wat they had dun
 Gen 50:19-20=READ
 alth G use Jos mitely it spear thru Jos G's plan wud tak plac,
 G use thez circum 2confound Satn & fulfil plan thru Jos bres
 Judah
 G use His sevrnty thru all this, but He sho wat He seek fr/thoz
 who R His
 Jos maynot bin selec as specil one ef bros, but whil liv, he liv
 4-G & G reveal He desir ritusnes fr/ His servs
 (Iulus little girl & pay 4present all at once)
 ther R thez who feel this beut ritusnes, & Bcus ne posibl, say=Whats
 use?
 But that wrong atitud Bouz ritusnes is a gre day by day think jus
 lik living

we seek 2liv ritusly day by day by day,step by step
we nevr hav it all at once

(Ilus Jn Newton & his prayr prelude)

As we face lif we maynot B abl 2say=By Grac of G I
am wat I am,Bcus we may feel we R not wat we shudB
But G invite us 2step 4th & fele our Sav Js Xp &
seek aftr rituenes

We can only do that 1step at time & w/Apes P we
too may say=2 Cor 4:7-11

ON LIST:

| |
|--------------|
| Artz, F. |
| Connally, J. |
| Dodds, C. |
| Dowell, V. |
| Johnson, K. |
| Levi, R. |
| Marzullo, M. |
| Marr, M. |
| McKnight, J. |
| Miller, N. |

Gen 50:19-20

(Ilus littl girl & stor wher can pay 4 all at once

Ritusnee is day/day gro proces

(Ilus Jn Newton)

& writr Amaz Grac 2-5 yrs B4 deth

friend tak 2brkfst

Almes blind,no read wud eat,read Bibl,pray

this day ne pray,then sed:

By th/Grac of G I am wat I am=was reading

He sed: I am not wat I ~~waxix28~~ought 2B!

How imperf & deficiat I am!

I am not wat I wish 2B! althe I abber that which

is evil & wud cleav 2wat is gud!

I am not wat I hep 2B,but seem I shall out of

mortality & w/it all sin & imperfectin!

The I am not wat I ought 2B,

nor wat I wish 2B, nor yet, wat I hepe 2B,

I can truly say I am not wat I lnce was:

a slav 2 sin & Satn.

I can hartly join w/Apestl & acknewledg by th/Grac

of G,I am wat I am

then aftr short paus,Now,let us pray

2 Cor 4:7-11

"The Friction Faction"

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11

(Illustration of definition of law)

It was Manilius, a Latin poet who said, "All things obey fixed laws"

Someone else has written, "Legal experts will tell you that one of the problems with laws is that there are too many of them. Legislative dockets are constantly bulging with bills and amendments, and amendments to the amendments straining to be enacted into law.

To aggravate the problem, there are thousands upon thousands of old laws kept on the books which have long since lost any semblance of meaning and purpose.

For example, until recently the State of Maryland still had a law on ~~ix~~ the books making it illegal to hold one's nose longer than a second. North Carolina law made it illegal to plow a cotton field with an elephant. In ~~the~~ Portland, Oregon, it has been against the law to roller skate in a public rest room. Inserting pennies in your car was a violation of Hawaii law. A Kentucky law prohibited appearing on a highway in a bathing suit unless you were carrying a club. One can only wonder what some future historian will make of that one.

It is more difficult, it seems, to remove a silly or outmoded law from the books than to enact one. A society devoted to a system of law must guard against the dangers of excessive legalism - the propensity to approach every human ~~xxx~~ problem, every human aberration, every human endeavor, legalistically.

Law and laws have been with mankind since the beginning of time. For even back in the beginning God speaking to Adam and Eve gave them guidelines for their lives which they so quickly broke. Thus it is that from those early beginnings of law we find that there are also many unwritten laws which follow us even today. This is especially true if a person is a believer as our Scripture points out this morning.

Chapter 37 of Genesis begins the history of Joseph and the first thing which is pointed out to us is found in the 2nd verse. (Read verse 2). Joseph shared shepherding duties with his brothers, but Joseph didn't share the evil actions and deeds of his brothers. Whatever these deeds were, Joseph told his Father Jacob about them. From this we can very easily determine that Joseph had the desire to seek after righteousness. Thus, it is from this conclusion that all that is about to happen to Joseph is more intriguing. Joseph is going to be displaced from his family, sold to live in a foreign land, and be deserted unjustly in a foreign prison. But in each instance it will be his righteousness that will bring this about.

If there is one lesson each one of us should learn early in our Christian lives, it is the fact that righteousness does not guarantee a trouble-free life. Righteousness in fact, often induces crisis if for no other reason than the reality that we live in the domain of the god of this world, Satan. Our lives as Christians are spent swimming against the grain. We are swimming upstream. The life of a Christian seeking to live and be righteous in an evil and unrighteous society creates Friction in the lives of the Unrighteous who then in turn seek to throw off this source which is causing their conviction that their lives are not right. We could simply then call this, "The Friction Faction" which is an unwritten law all Christians must live with and live by. The world is made up of the Righteous and the unrighteous; the Saved and the unsaved. There is no middle ground! You are either on one side or the other. Each of us must make that choice. But unfortunately, there are too many who want to be Christians, but they only want the good life. And since standing for Jesus Christ in an ungodly society is unpopular to say the least, And it brings problems, we have too many silent Christians; Christians who will not stand up and be counted. Joseph, the son of Jacob was not such a man. He knew that when he stood against his evil brothers, they would seek to

"get even." He knew his stance was unpopular, that it involved "Friction," and he was encountering a "Faction" which would retaliate, but he stood firm for God. So what does his stance tell us? That it is foolishness to swim upstream, to fight against injustice, and evil and wrong? I wish I had received money from every person in our Butler area who told us that we were wasting our time trying to rid Butler County of the adult bookstore, because, "You can't win, you can't beat the system." And many of these comments were from so called "Fellow-Christians." Read the letters to the editor and see the smears and the untruths being printed against any who were and are a part of the Butler County Citizens For Decency. Many of these writers have no idea of the filth and corruption that took place in that so called, "Little concrete block building that we picked on." But God never said our struggles would be easy when we seek to walk with Him. Paul pens the words of God in his letter to the Romans chapter 5, Listen to what he says, (read verses 1 through 5, explain the verses, and the word "hope"). If you don't know the truth of these words then perhaps you have never been involved in a fight against evil and wrong. I urge each of you to get involved to correct wrong, to eradicate evil wherever it exists. It is then you will know the tribulation that comes from that stance. But you will also learn the patience that only God can give that at sometime in the future will blossom into victory. And then you will rejoice and say, "Thank God, it was worth it all."

If we view Joseph's life from the standpoint of the message of Genesis which we have been looking at we can see that Joseph qualified to become the chief adversary of Satan's plot. Jacob had received the promise of the coming Messiah and this is recorded in the 28th chapter of Genesis verses 13 through 15, (read these). Jacob now has 12 sons and only one of those sons stand out as being righteous and this one could be the one from whom the ONE seed would come. It may even be he is the Messiah. Thus begins the struggle that Satan has with this son that could easily eliminate him from that promise God said He would fulfill and perhaps Satan could exterminate that promise at this point.

What Joseph went through couldn't help but make him discouraged with life. First, he stood against his brothers and was honest, and what was his reward? God said to Joseph, "Good boy, Joseph, now I'll sell you into Egypt." Would Joseph have acted as he did if he knew that the end result was separation ~~and slavery~~ from his family and slavery in Egypt? I think he was God's man and would have obeyed no matter what. This is what God wants. We know what the end result will be many times. But we also know that the situation demands obedience. We may grumble, but if we are true to what God wants we will obey.

(Illustration of teen-ager and her strict parents)

A teen-ager spoke to her pastor one Sunday and complained how restrictive her parents were. She said they would not permit her to go to a party that next Friday night. All of her friends would be there. "Didn't they trust her?", she asked. "After all, I'm not a little kid anymore," she said. The pastor sympathized with her and told her that at times life seemed to be tough, but her duty was to obey her parents and they had reasons for not letting her go.

The next Sunday she came to the minister and said, "Guess what?" He said, "Your parents let you go to the party." She said, "No, they didn't. And I'm glad now that ~~they~~ ~~they~~ wouldn't let me go. Some of the kids brought drugs and the booze flowed. The party got loud and wild. The neighbors called the police and some of the kids were arrested. I'm glad my parents knew what was best for me."

Obedience is tough no matter what age you are. There is always that which we SHOULD do, and there is always what we COULD do. What does God want me to do?

Through all of the conflicts that Joseph went through, ~~he~~ whatever may have been his feelings of discouragement and despair he came to the point that he realized that all of his life experiences prepared him for the job he held in Egypt. His brothers believed that after Jacob was dead, Joseph would turn on them and pay them back for what they had done to him. But in the 50th chapter Joseph speaks to them and he says as we read in the 19th and 20th verses, (read these).

Although God used Joseph mightily and it appeared it would be through Joseph that God's plan would take place, God used these circumstances to confound Satan and fulfill that plan through Joseph's brother Judah. God showed His sovereignty through all of this but He also revealed what He seeks from those who are His. Joseph may not have been the selected special one of his brothers, but while he lived, he lived for God and revealed that God desires righteousness from His servants.

(Illustration of little girl and paying for a present "All at once")

A little girl had saved up enough money to buy her father a present for his birthday. But she told her mother she was concerned about one thing. She said, "I can't be going downtown every month to make payments. Is there a store where they will let you pay ~~for~~ the whole thing at once?"

There are those who seem to feel this way about righteousness. We ~~wish~~^{want to} have it all, all at once, and since I don't seem to have it, what's the use in trying?" But that is the wrong attitude. Righteousness is a growing, day by day thing just like living. As we live each day we must seek to live righteously, we never have it all, all at once.

(Illustration of John Newton the writer of "Amazing Grace" and his prayer prelude)

Two ~~xxx~~ or three years before the death of John Newton, the preacher who wrote the hymn, "Amazing Grace," a friend called to have breakfast with him. His sight was now almost gone and he was no longer able to read. Their custom always was that after they had eaten, they would read a portion of the Word of God and then John Newton would make a few remarks about the text and then they would pray together. That day the Scripture read was, "By the grace of God I am what I am." After it was read by his friend, Newton didn't say a word. Finally after some silence he said, "I am not what I ought to be! How imperfect and deficient I am I am not what I wish to be, although I abhor that which is evil and would cleave to what is good! I am not what I hope to be, but soon I shall be out of mortality, and with it all sin and imperfection. Though I am not what I ought to be, nor what I wish to be, nor yet what I hope to be, I can truly say I am not what I once was: a slave to sin and Satan. I can heartily join with the Apostle and acknowledge that by the grace of God I am what I am!" Then after a short pause, he said, "Now, let us pray."

As we face life we may not be able to completely say, "By the grace of God, I am what I am," because we may feel we are not what we should be. But God invites us to step forth and follow our Savior Jesus Christ and seek after righteousness. We can only do that one step at a time. With the Apostle Paul we too may say as we find recorded in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians the 4th chapter, verses 7 through 11, (read these verses).

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Keith Walker, Guest Speaker September 11, 1988
Rev. Ralph Link, Liturgist
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Dave Brinker and Wendy Norman

+++++
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude "Invocation"

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Opening Hymn No. 240 "Fairer Lord Jesus"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Our Father, we come knowing that we have fallen and failed in so many ways. Sometimes we have tried to hide from you, from one another, and even from ourselves. There have been times when we have drawn back from the right because it was a difficult, crucifying experience. Father we seek strength to overcome our weakness, our sin, and our doubt of your help. Forgive us, and make us whole, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Leader - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 400 "Have Thine Own way, Lord!"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy Spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory "For God So Loved The World"

*Doxology - page 382

Promotion of Sunday School Students

Scripture: Luke 22: 31-32

Sermon: "Enemy Watch"

*Invitational Hymn No. 623 "The Longer I Serve Him"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude "March in B Flat"

+++++ *Congregation Standing +++++

Mrs. Kathy Goda has placed the beautiful flowers on the altar in memory of her father George Walrond.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pflugh will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Ushering today will be Helen Riemer, Phyllis Tait, Alma Dally and Shirley Thompson.

Attendance last Sunday was 97 with 12 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Myra Colgate.

Marge Smiley and Shirley Thompson will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Ben Hockenberry in BMH *PAUL CAMP*

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING DATES AND ACTIVITIES:

> Sept. 13 - Teachers of the Sunday School will meet at 6:45 for prayer time and their meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M.

15 - Youth Choir at 6:15 and Chancel Choir at 7

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST:

Sept. 19 - The Holiday Shopping Expo from 7 to 9 P.M. sponsored by the Youth will be held in Rehoboth Hall. Sure hope you will come out and support this project. Bring a friend or two, relatives or neighbors.

Baked Goods for Meals on Wheels can be brought in on Sunday September 18th. See the Newsletter for more details, or call Joan Campbell.

Installation of the officers for the Women's Fellowship will be next Sunday during the worship service.

Van driver for Sunday September 18th will be Marty Henry.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Rev. Keith Walker for spending his weekend with us. He was a big part of the Board Retreat and is bringing us the message of Jesus this morning.

Men! If you are interested in being part of a Monday morning Bible Study breakfast, there is a flier posted in the Narthex for you.

Missionaries from Turkey will be at Bethany U.C.C. on Saturday September 17th for an interesting program on missionary work. If you are interested in going there are more details on the flier posted in the Narthex.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor September 18, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Kelly Mangel and Lori Weisenstein
+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Opening Hymn No. 325 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) Almighty God, we thank you for the Church. But we know that as members of this body we have not always been as we should be. We have accepted your Word and it has not moved us. We have heard your message preached, and it is always meant for another person, and not me. We have partaken of the Lord's Supper and have not really wanted to give up some of our petty little sins. We have asked for forgiveness, but have been unwilling to give it to others. O God, come to us anew today. Cover us with your love and forgive our wayward acts of sin and disobedience. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 357 "O for a Heart to Praise My God"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.
Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Installation of Officers of Women's Fellowship
Scripture: 2 Chronicles 16: 1-9
Sermon: "Heart - Turn"
*Invitational Hymn No. 317 "Let's Just Praise the Lord"

*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mrs. Genevieve Nohach and Beverly in memory of Loved Ones.
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Link will greet our members and our guests at the door this morning.
Members of the Youth Group will be Ushering today.
Attendance last Sunday was 105 with 12 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki.
Bill Pflugh and Paul Campbell will be visiting the hospital this week.
Hospitalized:
Van driver for September 25th will be Rob Vinroe.
UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:
Sept. 19th - Holiday Shopping Expo from 7 to 9 P.M.
Monday evening. Details on the flyer.
Sept. 22nd - Chancel Choir practice at 7 and Youth practice at 6:15
If you forgot to bring your baked goods for Meals on Wheels today, you may do so tomorrow morning by 9 A.M.
The Mental Health Association is offering a workshop on Special Education Rights for parents to help understand these rights and the laws that support Special Education. For more details see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
The Center on Rape and Assault is looking for volunteers for the Child Assault Prevention program. If you are interested, see the notice on the bulletin board.
The Butler County Community College is having "Open House" for adults interested in returning to school. See details on the flyer in the Narthex.
*CONGREGATIONAL DINNER will be held next Sunday, September 25th at 5:30 P.M. Bring a tureen and your place setting. Meat, dessert and beverage will be provided. Lay, Life and Work Committee is in charge. Come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to the God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SACAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 16, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

BOOKLETS ON BACK TABLE TAKE & USE

*HYMN

PRAYER/OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

PASCHAL PRAYER

HYMN

SCRIPTURE: 2 CHRONICLES 16-1-9

SERMON: "HEART-TURN"

*HYMN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th / 5th / 6th / 7th / 8th / 9th / 10th / 11th / 12th / 13th / 14th / 15th / 16th / 17th / 18th / 19th / 20th / 21st / 22nd / 23rd / 24th / 25th / 26th / 27th / 28th / 29th / 30th / 31st / 32nd / 33rd / 34th / 35th / 36th / 37th / 38th / 39th / 40th / 41st / 42nd / 43rd / 44th / 45th / 46th / 47th / 48th / 49th / 50th / 51st / 52nd / 53rd / 54th / 55th / 56th / 57th / 58th / 59th / 60th / 61st / 62nd / 63rd / 64th / 65th / 66th / 67th / 68th / 69th / 70th / 71st / 72nd / 73rd / 74th / 75th / 76th / 77th / 78th / 79th / 80th / 81st / 82nd / 83rd / 84th / 85th / 86th / 87th / 88th / 89th / 90th / 91st / 92nd / 93rd / 94th / 95th / 96th / 97th / 98th / 99th / 100th

SCRIPT: 2 CHRON 16:1-9; SERM: "HEART-TURN"

(ILUS: HART-DART, CAN'T TURN ON HART-LITE)

CABLE 4811F-EXAM-FAD BUKS/TAPES/ETC

HOW 2B LK JC, A XPIAN, ETC

PROGS LK THEE MAX LK 2HCC EASTER BUNNY-NICE OUT, HOLLIC
REAL XPIANTY BGIN ON INSID - ~~2000-2001~~

JS TAUT=GET RT W/GCD-OUT CF HART MOUTH SPK

WAT IN HART HAT CUMS OUT-JUS HCA GET HART RT W/GCD??

ASA=RD K JUD-REIGN 41 YRS -1st 10YR PEAC RELIG REFORM

11TH X~~2~~ ETHIO INVAD & TURN 2 GOD & GIV VICTRY

16TH YR ISR INVAD

VS 1A=4TH YR DAVID KINGDM

VS 1B=ASA CUTOFF & NOW WAT DO??

VSS 2-3=GAV OWN WELTH, & G'D WELTH & HIRED SYRIA

VSS 4-5=ASA BLEV HAD WON VICTRY, ISR DEFEAT

VS 6=SET PEOP'L 2WORK, CRISTL OVR

VSS 7-9=LORD SPK 2ASA THPU PROPH-HE NOT RITE W/LORD

VS 10=ASA TUK ANGR OUT ON PROPH & PEOP'L INSTEAD LK SELF

WHEN ONCE SET G, DIRE CIRCUM THOT CUD DO HIMSELF

WAT DIZ G SAY??

VS 9=G WANTS OUR HARTS 2B COMPLY'LY HIS

NOW R HARTS DAILY LIT? IN WORSH?

NEIL DIAMOND & SCNG-TURN ON UR HART-LITE

EA NEST DC THAT-PERFORM HART SURGRY - LK DEEP W/IN

(ILUS SPLINTER, BRITE LIGHT & SEWN ON OUTSIDE FINGER)

THIS ANALOGY CF OUR LVS, WE CAN LK CLOSLY, BUT NC C

LIK G SEES - HE TURNS ON HART-LITE & C WAT WE OVRLK

(ILUS ARTIST CAMILLO & EYES CF CHRIST)

EYES OF SAV ON US EVE DAY OUR LVS, & CAN LK IN2 HARTS

& C WITHIN RITE W/HIM VS 9A=R OUR HARTS COMPLETELY HIS?

HAV WE TURN ON HART-LITE & LK W/IN? R WE WIL DO HART-

TURN 2DAY & B COMPLETELY HIS??

"Heart-Turn"

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 16:1-9

(Ilus man park car & note on windshield=get preg & sual park clos
A situ lik this wid mak anyone do self-exam
perhaps if all us did this we no run in2 situations wher we mus
squees in 2park

B+ self-exam no lagr in vogue we new liv an age of do own thing
fac, we Bcum ~~xxxxxxx~~2 reliant upon all kinds self-help buks
tapes, records

New prob & sumene had writ/film sumth bout it 2help evrcum it
Hew 2liv Xpian lif, how 2liv lik Js, how 2avoid sin, etc, etc

But un4tunatly all thez programs R lik checlat Eastn bunnys
We lk nice en outside, but we helle & empty insid

Real Xpiantry Bgins on insid & Xpiantry is mattr of B streng fr
th/insid out

Mt 23:25-28=Ks spk 2Phars, Bcum He knu they wer helle
they knu Law; had aners; made rt movs; had gud outward appearance
but they lackd th/rt interior

Wat was it Js was try teach this pt?

Threut His erthly minstry, Js cenatntly taut peren need 2get hart
rt w/G

He sed=OUT OF TH/ABUNDANC OF TH/HART TH/MOUTH SPEAKETH

He was say, wat was in hart was wat cam out in daily liv

Now if this is pt we mus ponder, jus hew get harte rt w/G?

We hav gud illus hew man turn hart fr/G evn the knu othwise

Asa 3rd K of Jud; reign 41 yrs; let 10 yrs reign had period of pea
wh/he set4th a relig reform

set 2get rid heathn idola in th/land

in 11th yr Jud invad by Ethiopia & Asa turn evr 2-G 4help & G
giv th/victory

But then dur 16th yr his reign Ier-N Kingdm invad Jud

vs 1A=this was 36th yr of divd Kingdm & acul 16th yr his reign

vs Asa out off fr/outsid worl & fr/thoz who cud help agin Ier

was 2-3=He hir Ben-hadad K Syria w/money of his & of G

was 4-5=this result & K Asa Bliev he won vctry & Ier defeatd

vs 6=aset peopl 2work Bcum he vocer

was 7-9=but L had sumth 2say bout this

vs 10=Asa awar he not rt w/G & do wat anyone duzatak out on wrong

peo, & especil proph of G Bcum he sho Asa up 4wat he was

vs 12=end of lif simlar 2this

wher lnce turn 2-G 4all help in wat considr dire circum he deem

this instanc man bettr able 2help

He refus keep hart rt 2ith God

& do U C wat G say bout this? =lk at vs 9-READ THIS VERSE

G wants our harte 2B comply His & this isnt a new I wil, new I
went deal

it is 2B evry circum of lif G is set 4guidanc/help

Our harte R 2B rt w/G all th/time

Now is our harte wen we hav mor month lef at end our mony?

Do we cut G out of our stewardship responsibiltys?

2/

B honest now! Wil we acpt B dishones in ordr 2get ahead?

Wil we seek our own way insted of G's way Bcum it easier?

Out tru hart conditin shows wen chips R dwn

Jus how do we act/react?

Our harte R always on display whthr want 2Bliev or not

1 v 2, our harte she is how we worsh G

I 'seen all kinds of wors & we sho harte by hew wors or do

not wors on any givn Sundy

Hav U evr cum 2-Ch & U not in bes mood Bcum mad wid 4get sew buto

Or kids tuk 2long 2dres? Or argu w/Wif? & U sit dwn detrein ne

one or nuth go 2 chang Ur foul mood?

Did U really wors G that day?

MayB anouncmen sets U off=Giv 2that outfit? No way! & U grump thr

Or mayB hymns all hav 4ves & U Bliev why not sing 1 vs & get evr

with, I no lik 2sing anyhow

Or th/offring isnt dun dun way U think shudB dun; Sern 2long; ch net

ovr at noon, etc, etc.

I sur we all hav sum pet peev keep us fr/wor G & wat dux that

say bout our harte?

Ther poplr song=Turn on Ur Hartlite & ea us need 2do that

I'd lik 2euges ea us 2day get invelv in hart-surgry, our own

a kind of do-it-Urself thing; Now I ne advocat tak scalpels in

hand and mak cut cros chest & expos harte

I'm advocat we lk deep within & lk wher harte R in relatin 2-G

(Ilus splinter & strong lite & stil no C splintr)

I Bliev this analgy our live

We can lk very closly at our harte but we no C as G o's them

G turns on His hart-lite & He c's wat we ovrluk

(Ilus Camillo artist & eyes of Jesus)

Th.eyes of th/Sav R upon us ea day our live

He can lk in2 our harte & He can C whthr we rt w/Him

1 writr Chronicles tels us=READ VS 9

Is Ur hart completly His?

Hav U turnd on Ur hartlite & lookd within?

R U wil 2do a Hart-Turn this day & B completly His?

I invit U 2do so so that we may all enjoy that specil relat-

ship wh/eurs thru Js Xp

(Ilus man park car & note windshield)
I HOP ONE THEZ DAYS U GET PREG & SUMONE PARKS THAT
CLOSE TO YOU

M*

Mt 3:25-28 - Js & Phars

How get rt w/G?

Asa 3rd K Jud

reign 41 yrs

1st 10yrs peac & relig reform

11th yr Ethiopia invad-turn 2-G & G giv victry

16th yr ISR invad

vs 1A=36th yr Div Kingdm

vs 1B=

vs 2-3

vs 4-5

vs 6

vs 7-9

vs 10

vs 12

Harts display Sundy in worsh:

badmeod;announc;hymns;offr;serm;heur noon

Song=Turn On Ur Hart-lite

(Ilus splinter & strong lite)

(Ilus Camillo & painting Js & His eyes)

Is Ur hart completly His?

Hav turn on Hartlite & lk w/in?

R U wil 2do Hart-Turn 2day & B completly His?

I invit U 2do se

"Heart-Turn"

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 16:1-9

(Illustration of man parking car close to others & note on windshield)

A man pulled into the supermarket parking lot, but soon discovered that parking was at a premium. He drove up one lane and down the next and all over that lot and there just wasn't a parking place. Finally, he drove down the last lane and it looked like there was just one spot. But when he got there he discovered that he could pull into the spot but he would be so close to the ~~other~~ car on either side he would really have to squeeze to get out. He parked the car, opened the door and squeezed himself out and was just able to walk between his car and the car next to him. He breathed a sigh of relief and exclaimed, "Boy, I hope one or both of these cars are gone when I come out of the store." He then noted that the car on the passenger side of his car was even closer to his car and he would have had a more difficult time getting out on that side.

The man did his shopping and sure enough when he came out both cars on either side were gone. So he opened the door on the driver's side and put his groceries on the seat and then he noticed a piece of paper on the windshield. It was a note and when he opened it he read, "I hope one of these days you get pregnant and someone parks that close to you."

A situation such as this would make anyone do some self-examination. Perhaps if all of us were to do that we wouldn't run into these situations where we have to squeeze to get ourselves in or out of our cars in parking lots. But self-examination is no longer in vogue. We now live in the age of doing your own thing. In fact, we have become so accustomed to this type of thinking that we have become reliant on all kinds of "self-help" books, tapes and records. Name the problem and someone has written or filmed something about it to help us to overcome it. "How to live the Christian life," "How to be like Jesus," "How to avoid sin," and all other sorts of titles are waiting for us to buy them and begin whatever program it is to be the Christians we can and should be.

But unfortunately, all of these programs make us like chocolate Easter bunnies. We look nice on the outside, but we are fragile and hollow inside. Real Christianity begins on the inside. ~~and if we have the right relationship with God, we can overcome all our self-help programs~~ Christianity is a matter of being strong from the inside out. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus took the Pharisees to task because ~~they were so strong~~ He recognized their problem as being hollow. In the 23rd chapter we read from the 25th through the 28th verses, (read these ~~verses~~ They knew the Law; they had the answers; they made all the right moves; and they put on a good outward appearance. But they lacked the right interior. What was it that Jesus was trying to teach in this instance? Throughout His earthly ministry Jesus constantly taught that a person needed to get his heart right with God. He said, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh." He was saying that what was in the heart was what came out of the daily living the person did. Now if this is the point we should ponder, just how do we get our hearts right with God?

We have a good illustration of how a man of God turned his heart from God even though he knew otherwise. ~~Asa was the 3rd king of Judah. He reigned for 41 years.~~ Asa was the 3rd king of Judah. He reigned for 41 years. In the first ten years of his reign there was a period of peace during which he set forth a religious reform in the land by seeking to get rid of the heathen idols in the land.

In the 11th year of his reign Judah was invaded by the Ethiopians and Asa turned to God for help, and God delivered them and gave Judah the victory.

But then during the 16th year of his reign, Israel, the Northern Kingdom invaded Judah.

Our Scripture read, "In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign," vs 1a, and really this was in the 36th year of the divided kingdom, and it was actually in the 16th year of Asa's reign. It was at this time that, "Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent anyone from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah," vs 1b.

Asa was alarmed because he knew that he was cut off from the outside world and those who could help him to overcome Israel. So in order to defeat Israel, Asa seeks to hire Ben-hadad's army to bail him out. So he sends messengers to Ben-hadad telling him that he is willing to hire him using the silver and gold at his disposal, both his personal wealth, and the wealth of the treasury of the ~~temple~~ Temple, which was the Lord's and he hires the Syrian army to fight against Israel. His request of Ben-hadad was, (read verse 3).

The result of this was, (read verses 4 and 5). So king Asa believed that he had won the victory, Israel had been defeated and so he set his people to work and we read, (read verse 6). But Asa had been doing things his way and had turned from the Lord. So it was that the Lord had something to say to Asa and we read, (read verses 7-9). Asa recognized that he was not right with the Lord and because this was pointed out to him he did the normal thing and got angry and we read, (read verse 10). Asa took his anger out on Hanani and some of his own people instead of looking at himself and turning back to God. The end of his life was very similar to this for we read, (read verse 12).

Where once he had sought God for all of his help, in what he considered a very dire circumstance he deemed that men were capable of handling the situation. He refused to keep his heart right with the Lord. And do you see what God says about this? Look at the 9th verse! "The eyes of the Lord roam to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."

God wants our hearts to be completely His. That isn't a now I will, now I won't deal. It is that in every circumstance of life, God is sought for guidance and help/ Our hearts are right with God all the time. How ^{ARE} our hearts when we have more month left at the end of our money? Do we cut out God from our stewardship responsibilities? Be honest now! Will we accept doing something dishonest in order to get ahead? Our true heart condition is demonstrated when the chips are down. Just how do we act or react?

Our hearts are always on display whether we want to believe it or not. One of the ways our hearts show is how we truly worship God. I've seen all kinds of worship and we show our hearts by how we worship, or do not worship God on any given Sunday. Have you ever come to church and perhaps you're not in the best of moods because your wife forgot to sew a button on your shirt, or the kids took too long to get ready, or you argued on the way? Have you ever slumped down into your seat determined that nothing said or done was going to change your foul mood? Did you really worship God that day? Maybe the announcements set you off and the service had not really begun yet. "Give money to that outfit, they'll not get a penny from me, the very idea," and you grump through the rest of the service looking like you swallowed a lemon. Or you look at the hymns and each one of them have four verses. "We'll be here all day just getting through these hymns why can't we just sing one verse and get it over with?", and you don't worship because you don't feel like singing so many verses.

Or the offering isn't done the way you like it, or the sermon is too long, or church goes beyond an hour and doesn't he know we need to get to lunch, and on and on we could go naming each of our pet things which we all have to keep us from giving a loving open heart to our Lord.

There is a popular song that sings, "Turn on your heart-light." Each of us needs to do that. I'd like to suggest that today we each get involved in heart-surgery. Our own heart-surgery. A kind of do-it-yourself thing. Now I'm not advocating that we take scalpels in hand and begin to make a cut across the chest to expose our hearts. I'm advocating that we look deep within and look at where our hearts are in relation to the Lord.

(Illustration of splinter in my finger and strong light)

About ~~16 to 20~~ 16 to 20 years ago we were living in a parsonage and there were no shelves in the study. So I suggested that if the church would give me permission I would build some bookshelves. So I got the wood and began to build them. They didn't turn out too bad. Even Lloyd laughed at them. But when I had them finished, I sanded them real smooth to get them ready for varnishing. ~~When I came home from church the following Sunday, I took my Bible into the study and as I passed the bookshelf closest to me, I ran my hand over the shelf to feel the smoothness and suddenly I said "ouch" because I had gotten a splinter in my finger. Well I thought that after lunch I would remove it. But I just couldn't get it out, it was too big. So I went to the Emergency Room of Carlisle Hospital and a young intern began to look at my finger. The first thing he did was to focus a very bright light on the finger. He saw the splinter and cut open my finger to remove it. Then after he had removed it, he sewed my finger up, bandaged it and told me what all of this cost me. As each day went by, waiting for the week to get over with so I could have the stitches removed, the finger became sorer and sorer. About the middle of the week I decided I needed to go back to the hospital and show the doctor what he had done. He had removed the splinter all right, but he had also sewed it to my finger with the stitches. But you see the problem was that it was white pine and very light in color. And even under that very strong and powerful light it didn't quite show up right.~~

I believe that this is the analogy of our lives. We can look very closely at our hearts, but we don't truly see them as God sees them. God turns on His "heart-light" and He sees what we overlook.

(Illustration of Camillo the artist and the eyes of Christ)

There was an artist named Camillo who had led a long and sinful life. He painted a picture of Christ and he called it "The Man of Sorrows." But in his painting of the picture he gave the eyes of Jesus such a searching appealing look that he couldn't stand the eyes looking at him and he placed a cover over the painting. He mentioned this to a preacher friend and the preacher's advice was to unveil the painting and let those eyes do their work on him. And those eyes began to do a work on him. He was convicted that he needed to undo every wrong he had done if possible; to tear up any canvas he had painted which even suggested evil; and to make things right where he could. Yet, in his heart there was still no peace. One night he knelt and told Jesus that he wanted what only Jesus could give and he turned his heart over to him. And from that day on, Camillo became a new man.

The eyes of the Savior Jesus Christ are upon us each day of our lives. He can look into our hearts and He can see ~~whether~~ whether we are right with Him. The writer of Chronicles tells us, "The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose hearts are completely His."

Is your heart completely His? Have you turned on your heart-light and looked within? Are you willing to do a "Heart-Turn" this day and be completely His? I invite you to do so, so that we may all enjoy that special relationship which is ours through Jesus Christ.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor September 25, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and Kelly Mangel

TURN ON YOUR HEART LIGHT!!!!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 341 "Come, Thou Almighty King"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) We offer to thee, O Father,
praise for the gift of thy Spirit. We are made
aware that your love is given to us in many ways.
When we are lonely, when we show unbelief, it is
your Spirit that fills us with your truth. And
when we burn with hatred, or anger, or selfishness,
or greed, it is your Spirit which speaks to us with
your love. Forgive us, and may your Spirit live,
guide, and direct us in all ways. Through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 161 "Breathe On Me, Breath of God"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.
Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Anthem: "Lonesome Valley/Swing Low"
Scripture: Revelation 2: 1-5
Sermon: "Might Have Been"
*Invitational Hymn No. 634 "O How I Love Jesus"
*Closing Chimes
*Benedic p

*Postlude

***** *Congregation Standing *****
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Phyllis and Beth Tait to the Glory of God.
Mrs. Millie Wachsmuth will greet our members and guests at
the door this morning.

Ushering today will be Dick Mangel, Don Kingsley, George
Pflugh and Dick Dally.

Attendance last Sunday was 122 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki.
Herb Shearer and Ben Vensel are scheduled for hospital
visitation this week.

Van driver for October 2 is Dick Dally.

Hospitalized:

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:

Monday - 7 P.M. Property Committee will meet and go over
the new heating system. Any other person who
may be interested may attend as well.

Thursday - 6:15 Youth Choir 7 P.M. Chancel Choir

MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Monday Oct. 3rd - Benevolence Committee meets at 7 P.M.
5th - Council meeting at 7 P.M.

> We will be observing the Lord's Supper next Sunday at the
11:00 A.M. worship service. This is new communion.

Soup & Salad will be October 11th. Tickets are now avail-
able through the Circle Chairmen or Phyllis Tait. They
also need cabbage, onions, carrots, potatoes, and salad
tomatoes. Please call them and help them out.

October 9th service will be dedicated to the new St. Paul's
Alzheimers Disease Center. A representative from the
home will be here for the service.

> Congregational Dinner is tonight at 5:30 P.M. Meat, dessert
and beverage will be provided. Bring along a turban van
and table service and join in the fun and fellowship.

> October 16th we will be taking new members into the church.
If you or anyone you know may be interested, please let
the Pastor or the office know. Se-
Pick

We are looking for a volunteer to help us line up help for
in the Nursery each Sunday. We cannot rely on the same
people to do it all of the time, so please let the office
know if and when you would be willing to serve. Just
remember that you relied on someone at one time to care
for your children. Lets all work together for this.

At the close of the worship service the invitation is for
any and all to respond to God's leading for your life.
This gives each the opportunity to accept Christ as
Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling.
Please avail yourself of this opportunity.

ON BROU GOSPEL IN TH/EGIN WAS TH/WORD.& TH/WORD WAS W/GOD & THE
WORD WAS GFC

WAT HE SAY? EXPL SO GRKS WUD THINK THRU & UNDRST G AMONG MANKIN
(ILUS THEOLOGAINS & HOW THEY TALK UP OF BEING, LEAP OF FAITH TO
EXPLAIN JSY)

(ILUS SOMEONE WROTE THEY CONFRONT JS)

THIS WAT HAPN 20TH CENT CH

INSTR PLAIN SIMPL GOSPEL-INTELCTUL DRIVEL NO ONE UNDRST, INCLU
PREACHERS

C' T EBN MAY BEN GILTY MANY THINGS, BUT JS ACUR OF LOSE 1ST LUV

WE UNDRST IF MAK CP TO HUMAN SITUATIONS

ROY MEET GIRL, LUV, MARAG & RELATINSHIP CHNG OVR YRS

(ILUS COMON COLD & WIFE/HUSABAND OVR 2YRS)

SND FAMILIAR SHTUT R TH/CASE, BUT WIT CFT IS

(ILUS MAN, WIFE DIES, & OPENS DOOR OF HEARS?)

TH/FIRST LUV - IT IS JOY OF SHARS/CARE/HAFFNES/DOING FOR SA CTR

AS TIME GORS ON IT BCUMS LUV OF CONVENIENT, NEGLECT, LAK CONCERN

HAPPIN IN MARAGE & HAPPIN IN CONGE AS WEL

(EXAMPL OF SUMONE ON FIRE WTH/ICED & FIRE QUENCHED, ARGUING, FIGHT

ING W/IN TH/CONG, POWER STRUGGLES, ETC)

WAT IS FIRST LUV AS JS POINTS OUT??

IT LUV WE EXPR WEN TAK HIM AS L & SAV

IT THAT LUV THAT COMPELS US 2LIV 4HIM & SHC THAT LUV BY OUR

LIVE & OUP SERVICE

DO U HAV THAT 1ST LUV? OR HAS IT GROWN COLD?

HAV U EVR HAD IT? HAV U EVR EXPR EMOTINAL WARMTH, FEELING THAT

W WANT TO LUV TH/MCHLD & BCUZ OF JS XP??

WHY NOT REACH OUT & SUREMER UR LIF 2JS XP 2DAY??

LISTN 2UR SAV'S CAL UPON UR LIF & CUM TO THAT 1ST LUV AS HE

WANTS?

(Ilus Bride beatus, etc)

(Ilus Theos & Js)

Th/modrn Theole-Barth, Bonhoeffer, Brunnr, Bultmann

& Tillich met th/L. & Th/L askd thez famos wen

"Who do men say that I am?" & they replied,

"S^m say U R Jn th/Hsp raised fr/th/dad; Sum say U

R Je or one of th/prophs. & evn sum say U R

th/Xp, th/S of G."

Then th/L sed, "But who do U say that I am?"

& they chorud bak 2gethr=Thou art th/grnd of

being; Thou art th/leap of faith in2 th/impene-

trabl unknown; Thou art th/unphrasabl, unverblind,

unpropositinal, confrontatin w/th/infinitud of

inherent sujectiv experienc."

& th/L lookd at them & sed - HUH!

(Ilus 7yrs common cold)

(man wif dy & open doer of herse)

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-5
 (Illustration of Bride of Christ)
 Im cert all us wud reac in horor if wer 2witness such scen
 Perhaps mayB think 2self, Id nevr want 2witness such scen
 But ea us hav witness such scen many times ovr
 As think thru story & recog cast charctrs can undrst we bin part
 Th id is=Ch of Js Xp
 Fater on arm=God
 Groom=un othr than Js Xp,stan/wait receiv bride
 but insted receiv Bride who butiful/perf/w/out spot,blem,wrinkl
 He receiv Brid tattred & torn
 A bride had2 battl way dwn aial as struggl 2B unit w/Bridgrum
 This is Bride of wh/U & I R a part;Th/Bride,th?Ch of Js Xp has bi
 bin battl w/in & w/out
 Js sed He wud bld His Ch & th/gates of hel cudnot prevail agin
 we undrst it wil meet opositin fr/w/out, but th/epos th/Ch has
 met w/in is wat grievd our Sav so that He persnly spok warns
 agin it in th/erly 1st century Ch
 It was Apostl Jn wrot th/mesag he receiv fr/Js & this in buk Rev
 at Bgin 2nd chap C 1st mesag 2-1st ch
 thez 7 ch's Js spks of R reaps of Ch's wh/wud cum aftr them &
 thus,altho thez ch's no lnger exis,mesag is fresh 4 ch's 2day
 Ironic 1st ch adres is Ephesus Ch;this fnd by Apos P & he wrot
 Ch/2Bwar Bcuz grevus wolvs wud cum & n sheep cloth,& steal sheep
 Wat he warn of tuk plac this Ch
 Eph sand at cros rds of worl;In Eph was major trad rtes cam
 2gethr;Eph hom of Romn Gov;Eph held 1 of 7wondrs of worl-Templ
 of Diana & pec cam fr/all ovr worl 2G & partak imoral rites
 P fnded th/Ch;Tim 1 of pastrs so was Apolos;Priscil/Aquila/Apos
 Jn wer membre
 so can C had grt Xpian histry in its erly yrs
 vs 1=Js Bgins mesag=angl persn in chrg-preschr,pastor
 1 do indictment agin pastor,but agin Ch undr his care
 7stars wer 7-Ch's & one hol rt hand=Js
 7candlestiks & one walk mong=7 ch's-lite gav & Js
 vss 2-3=comendatin 4things dun rt
 Ch bin faithfl seek 2B pur;fite agin evil/fals teach
 Js tol dun excelen job & had labr w/out gro weary & let evil
 influ in2 cong
 vs 5=Js remin them go bak original work 2wh/bin cal er wud put out
 their lite;they wer 2turn th/ch bak 2th/Lord,pt it in that direc
 or els wdd go way of worl & no lnger B part Ch of Js Xp
 vs 6=Js comend agin
 Expl Nicolaitians wer lik Gnostics Bliev soul gud net body,etc
 & sum thez peop wer membre of Ch & Js comend 4 discip them,
 diasia them as membre of th/body
 vs 7=Js giv sumatin wat wilB giv 2evr tru Blivr remain tru 2 Lord
 Tree was in Eden & S wil restor Blievers 2that sunday

2/
 But wat was it Js fnd wrong w/this cong? Amer=vs 4
 Wat was 1st Luv? It was deep luv/comitmen had 2fole Sav wherevr
 rd led
 They prom 2luv until very end of lif,but midway dwn rd,luv turn
 Wat had caus this?? We no kno & can only speculat
 Cud hav bin intellectul comunity-deep think & Greeks did this
 Ex 1=Jn writ Gospel-In Th Bgin was Th/Word,& Word was G,etc
 that typ reason no disapear,has grwn & stil w/us
 (Ilus Theologins & Js ask "Who do men say I am?")
 this exactl wat hadd Ch of 20th centry many congs
 insted plain/simpl Gospl preach,hav bin intellectul drivl & evn
 sum of clergy no undrstan wat they preach
 result=U cant B bout propr work of th/Lord
 Ch of Eph maybin involv many thing,but Js acus this caus loss of
 first luv
 can only andrst if cp w/human situ:boy meets girl;fal luv=arry
 but relationship no remain same as time go on
 (Ilus 7 years of marriag & comon cold)
 Snd famil? Unfort yrs liv 2gethr deteriorates many marags
 (Ilus man,wife dy,& he open door of hers 4her)
 Th/1st luv=it one of joy,hapnes,shar,care,do,but as tim go on,
 that 1st luv turn 2luv of convenience,neglec,lak of concern
 it hap in marags,but hap individ congs
 many peo cum in2 cong on fir 4th/Lord;ther enthus grt & boy they
 R fird up 2serv Him
 But tim goes on & persn cant responsibilty congs lif may hav subtl
 shift of loyly or luv
 insted of think wat L wants,wat shudB dun in wong,it Bcum persn
 struggl perhaps 4pwr w/dif factins w/in decisin mak bedys of
 th/congs
 or persn may Bcum disgruntl Bcuz Ch no spend mony as they lik
 -- this wrong/tht wrong/tht persn wrong/nuthin rt,etc.
 & 1st thing hap is that giftd,Xp luv/Xp hear individ fals by
 wayside - WHY? Bcuz ther 1st Luv is lost
 Wat was that 1st luv Js pt out?
 It luv we exper wen 1st cum 2 th/L & tak as L & Sav
 it that luv that compel us 2liv 4Him & 2sho our luv by our
 lives & our serv
 Do U hav that 1st luv? Or has ur 1st luv grwn cold?
 Hav U evr had that 1st luv? Hav U evr exper that wrmth,that un-
 describl feel,that emotinal impac that make persn want 2luv the
 worl 4 Js Xp?
 If U havnt,perhap U hav nevr cum 2th/plac wher U hav surendr Ur
 lif 2th?lord;if U want 2exper that 1st luv,why not reach out 4
 wat Js Xp can do 4U & giv U in Ur lif;or if Ur 1st luv has grwn
 cold & U hav drop out of lif of th/Ch,lista 2th/Sav's cal upon
 Ur lif & answer 2day

"Might Have Been"

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-5

(Illustration of Church as "The Bride" of Christ)

The church was filled. The soloist had completed her last song and went to her seat in the choir loft. The organist began another song and from the ante-room came the minister followed by the groom and his best man. Everyone in the congregation smiled as they looked at the groom. He was so handsome and looked so elegant in his black tux. Many of the women spoke to one another and commented how lucky the bride was to have such a handsome man. He was all that any prospective bride could want in a husband. Thus the stage was set and the organist now began the precessional. The bridesmaids all came down the aisle one by one. Then the Maid of Honor appeared and the tension began to build as each person waited expectantly for the appearance of the Bride. At last everyone of the bridal party was assembled at the front of the church. The organist then struck the beginning fanfare of the Bridal March and all of the congregation rose to their feet. Everyone knew that at last the bride had made her appearance at the back of the church. Now, as the familiar strains of "Here Comes The Bride" echoed in the church every eye was turned toward the aisle to get catch their first glimpse of the one they all knew was as beautiful as the Bridegroom was handsome. But as the bride started to make her way down the aisle a startled gasp began to pass through the congregation. Surely there must be some mistake. This was not the beautiful bride they had all waited in anxious anticipation to see. Her dress was torn and part of its full-length was missing; this revealed rips and tears in her nylon stockings; her bare arms were covered with welts and bruises; her facial makeup was smeared; one of her eyes was discolored and swollen shut; her hair was disheveled and dirty; and her veil was sitting askance on her head and she slowly and wobbly walked down the aisle on the arm of her Father.

I'm certain that all of us would react in horror if we were to witness such a scene. Perhaps we may be thinking to ourselves that I'd never want to be witness to something such as this. But each of us have witnessed this very scene many times over. As we think through this story and recognize the list of characters in it, we can then understand what it is we have each been a part of. The Bride is the Church of Jesus Christ. Her Father on her arm is of course God. And the Groom is none other than Jesus Christ standing, waiting to receive His Bride the Church. But instead of receiving the Bride who is beautiful, and perfect, without blot, or spot, or wrinkle, He receives a Bride that is tattered and worn. A bride that had had to battle her way down the aisle as she struggles to be united with the Bridegroom. This is the Bride of which you and I are a part. The Bride, The Church of Jesus Christ has been battered from within and without. Jesus said He would build His Church and the gates of Hell would not prevail against it." We understand that it will meet opposition from without. But the opposition the Church has met from within is what grieved our Savior so that He personally spoke warnings against it in the early First Century Church. It was the Apostle John who received this message from Jesus and wrote it down. That message is contained in the Book of Revelation. At the beginning of the 2nd chapter of this book we see the first message to the first church. These seven churches to which Jesus speaks are representative of churches which would come after them and within succeeding churches are to be found the ingredients against which the Lord speaks. So even though these churches, or congregations no longer exist, the message is fresh and real pointing to the dangers which exist in our own day and age.

It is ironic that the first church addressed is the Church at Ephesus. The Apostle Paul founded this church and it was he who wrote in one of his letters to beware of grievous wolves that would come in sheep's clothing to steal away the sheep. The very thing he

warned against took place within this very good and strong congregation of believers. Ephesus stood at the crossroads of the world. It was in Ephesus that the major trade routes came together. It was Ephesus that was the home of the Roman Governor; and it was Ephesus that held one of the seven wonders of the world. The beautiful temple of Diana was there and naturally, people came from all over to admire it and to partake of its pagan rites which involved immorality on a grand scale. Paul founded the church, Timothy was one of its pastors, so was Appolos; Priscilla and Aquila were members of this church and so was the Apostle John. From this we can see that it had a great Christian history in its early years. Jesus spoke to John and He told him to write to the seven churches a message for each and so he begins by telling him, "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; 'These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven candlesticks.'"

The "angel" of the church and each church addressed as such was the person who was in charge of preaching and teaching there. It was probably the person selected as Pastor. It was not an indictment against the pastor, but the message to him about the church under his care. The "seven stars" were the seven churches; the One who held them in His right hand was Jesus; and the "seven candlesticks," and the "One who walked among them," were the seven churches and the Lord Jesus walking in their midst. Thus we have the introduction.

Now comes the message. First there is the commendation for what they have done right. Jesus said: "I know thy works," etc, ~~xxxxxx(see these)~~ verses 2 and 3, (read these).

The church had been faithful in seeking to be pure, fighting against evil and false teaching. Jesus told them they had done an excellent job of this and had continued to labor without growing weary and letting the evil influence into the congregation.

It is then that Jesus explains what the church had done which was wrong, and then He gives the solution to correct that wrong, followed by what was the reward for correcting the problem. I would like to skip past the 4th verse and come back to it later and look at the correction needed within the church at Ephesus.

Jesus reminded them, "Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first work or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent," verse 5.

Jesus told them to get back to the original work to which they had been called or He would extinguish their flame. They were to turn the church back to the Lord, point it in that direction or else it would go the way of the world and no longer be a part of the Church of Jesus Christ.

And then Jesus again commends them and says, (read verse 6). These Nicolaitans were people who lived immoral lives much like the Gnostics who believed that the soul was the only thing of worth and a person could do anything corrupt or evil with the body since it didn't affect the soul. Some of these people were members of the church and Jesus commended the church for dealing with them and dismissing them as members. Then Jesus gives a summation of that which will be given to every believer who remains true to the Lord, (read verse 7.)

The tree of Life stood within the garden of Eden which was a veritable paradise which man perverted by sinning. Jesus says that one day, all believers will be permitted to live in God's eternal paradise.

That, in essence is a summation of the message Jesus had for the church at Ephesus. But what was it that Jesus found wrong with this congregation? The answer is found in the 4th verse. It is there that we read, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

What was that first love? It was that deep love, that commitment they had to follow their Savior wherever that road may lead. They had promised to love Him until the very end of life. But midway down that road that love had grown into something else. What had caused this? We don't really know, we can only speculate. It may well have been that the church became involved in the intellectual community around them. They were living among those to whom the intellect and deep thinking was thought to be the necessary ingredient of life. They delved deeply into deep thinking. An example of this is the reason for the Apostle John beginning his Gospel by writing, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God," etc. By the use of the word, "Word," instead of Jesus, John was able to convey to these thinkers the meaning of the message of his Gospel. They were able to think this concept of God in the midst of man through. But that type of reasoning didn't cease with the disappearance of the Ephesian church. It has continued down to our present day and time. You may have heard of Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Emil Brunner, Ruedolph Bultmann, or Paul Tillich,, or none of the above. All of these men were of this deep thinking group and are known as Theologians. If you have tried to read something they have written you can readily understand the difficulty an average person has of knowing just exactly what they are trying to say. It takes them a paragraph to say what you and I could say in one sentence, and even then you would have trouble understanding what they are saying. Each of them used a certain phrase to describe Jesus such as, "The Ground of Being," or, "the leap of faith," and so on (Illustration of what someone wrote of Jesus' encounter with these men)

Someone wrote of an encounter Jesus had with these men when He questioned them as to who He is. They replied, "Some say you are John the Baptist raised from the dead, Some say you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets. And even some say you the Christ, the Son of God." Then the Lord said to the theologians, "But who do you say that I am?" And Barth, Bonhoeffer, Brunner, Bultmann, and Tillich chorused back, their answer: "Thou art the ground of being. Thou art the leap of faith into the impenetrable unknown. Thou art the unphraseable, unverbilized, unpropositional confrontation with the infinitude of inherent, subjective ~~experience~~ experience." And the Lord looked at them and said, "HUH!"

And this is exactly what has happened to the 20th century church in many congregations. Instead of the plain and simple Gospel being preached there is a lot of the intellectual drive being preached which the average person cannot understand, (and many of the clergy preaching it are thoroughly confused), and the church cannot be about its proper work for the Lord. The church at Ephesus may have been involved in many other things, but the one thing that the Lord Jesus accused them of, was the loss of their first love. We can understand this if we make a comparison to the human situation. We all know that when boy meets girl and fall in love it makes a great difference in both of their lives. They get married and then settle into the routine of marriage, but the relationship doesn't stay the same as time goes on and there are many proofs of this. Someone gives us the illustration of the common cold a wife had for each of seven years, and the husband's reaction to that situation.

(Illustration of this - "Marriage: The Cold")

Sound familiar to any of us? Unfortunately, years lived together deteriorates many marriages

(Illustration of man, wife dies, and he opens door of hearse for her)

There was ~~was~~ a man who was married for a number of years and his wife died. He wasn't hit too hard by this, he accepted it as part of life. The funeral was held and it came time to go to the cemetery. In this particular funeral home the funeral director always asked the immediate family of the deceased to precede the casket to the hearse and stand in a line on either side as the casket was placed inside. The husband walked ahead of the rest of the family with the Funeral Director and when they reached the hearse, the Funeral Director told the husband, "You may open the door for your wife." The man reached out, took the handle of the door in his hand and opened the door of that hearse, and immediately broke down in tears. The reason, his mind was flooded with all of the times his wife had gotten into the car since their marriage and he never once opened the door for her. It took her death to get him to extend that courtesy to her and she would never know of it.

The first love! It is one of joy, happiness, sharing, caring, doing. But as time goes on, that first love turns to a love of convenience, of neglect, of lack of concern. It happens in marriages, but it happens also in the individual congregation. Many people come into a congregation on fire for the Lord. Their enthusiasm is great and boy they are fired up to serve Him. But time goes on and that person caught up in the responsibilities of that congregations life may have a subtle shift of loyalty or love. Instead of thinking what the Lord wants, and what should be done in the congregation it becomes a personal struggle perhaps for power with different factions within the decision making bodies of the church; or the person may become disgruntled because the church is not spending its money as he or she thinks it should; or this is wrong and that is wrong, and this person is wrong or that person is wrong, and the first thing that happens is that gifted, Christ loving/honoring person falls by the wayside. And the First love is lost.

What is first love as Jesus was pointing it out? It is the love that we experience when we take Him as our Lord and Savior. It is that love that compels us to live for Him and to show our love by our lives and by our service.

Do you have that first love? Or has your first love grown cold? Have you ever had that First love? Have you ever experienced that warmth, that undescribable feeling, that emotional impact that ~~makes~~ makes a person want to love the world for Jesus Christ? If you haven't perhaps you have never come to the place where you have surrendered your life to the Lord. If you want to experience that First Love, why not reach out for what Jesus Christ can do for you and give you in your life. Or if your First Love has grown cold and you have dropped out of the life of the church, listen to the Savior's call upon your life and answer today.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor October 2, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Megan Hewis and Mike Gamble
* * * * *

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 336 "O Worship the King"
*Ascription
*The Call to Communion (communion folder)
*The Confession
*Assurance of Pardon
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Anthem: "Festive Alleluia"
Scripture: Jeremiah 52: 31-34
Sermon: "By Invitation"
Communion Hymn No. 564 "Let Us Break Bread Together"
*Service of Holy Communion (page 2 of communion folder)
The Lord's Supper
Distribution of the Bread
Distribution of the Cup
*Prayer of Thanksgiving
*Invitational Hymn No. 235 "Jesus Is Lord of All"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude
* * * * * *Congregation Standing * * * * *
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mr. Anna Zubik in memory of Louis Zubik.
Mrs. Elva McCormick will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.
Visiting today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Jeff Snyder,
and Frank Crawford.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Sue Davis.
Attendance last Sunday was 120.
Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital
this week.
Ken Draxinger will be driving the Van October 9th.
Hospitalized: Kathryn Bancroft, Grace Robinson, and
Kay Brown in BMH. Don Venick -
Schedule for this week:
Monday - October 3rd Benevolence Committee at 7 P.M.
October 5th Council meeting at 7 P.M.
Next weeks activities:
Monday - set up for Soup and Salad
Tuesday - Soup and Salad Day. Tickets are now available.
Cabbage and peppers are needed. Don't forget
your Bazaar items and baked goods. Your help
is also needed.
October 15th we are having try outs for the Christmas
Sunday School program at 10:00 A.M. We would like all of
the children of the Sunday School classes to please come
and help us out.
October 9th the service will be conducted by a represent-
ative of St. Paul's Home in Greenville. They will be
presenting us with a program on their Alzheimers Disease
Center. We hope you will come out and listen to their
program.
NEW MEMBERS will be taken into the congregation on October
the 16th. If you or anyone you know may be interested
in joining, please let the office know.
We are still looking for someone to volunteer to chair the
Nursery committee for the church. This job does not
require much work, just lining up a person to be in
charge of the nursery each week. We would appreciate
your help. Contact the office or LuAnn Janicki.
Sunday Evening Bible Study will resume tonight at 7 P.M.
Anyone interested may attend. Hope to see you there!
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

"My Invitation"

Scripture: Jeremiah 52:31-34

K Neb of Babyl'n entr Jeru & tuk sum captivs among whom wer Man & his 3 frends;he also tuk goldn vessels fr/templ
K Jehoiakin was 28 taken as wel,in fac,he bin placd in chains
out 4sum reason K Neb had him releas & permit 2remain in Jeru
w/ 1 ether captiv wer taken in2 exil in Babylon
... Bliev'd K Jehoiakin convinc K Neb he wudB loyl subj/serv 2
him if permit 2remain in Jeru
This pt Jud histry moral/relig decay Bgan 2set in
Heathn gods Baal/Astroth wer wors opnly at gates temp & it
Bliev humn sacs wer agin offr in Vally of Minom
Undr thez conditins crulty,corruptin,opresin wer comenplac Jeru
Dur this time proph Jer wrot words on scrol,gav K Jehoiakin,he
read,cut off w/knif & thro in fire
About 3yrs aftr this K Jehoi decid rebel agin Babylonia Bcuz
K Neb 2busy fite agin Egypt
Sinc K Neb cudnt fite agin Jud,he incit neighbr natins 2do so
untill he cud fite agin them himself
But in that interrim,on Dec 10,598 K Jehoiakin dyd
Bcuz he was not godly K pec no mourn 4him & he givn shameful bury
Jer had proph this(READ JER 22:18-19
Jehoiachin succeed him en thron at tendr age 18,but pec no kne wat
kind K wudB sinc only reign 3mos 18days
He assum thron in Bsc aftr deth fathr,& reign til Mar 16,597 wen
he was taken captiv
K Neb had finish war w/Egypt,brot army 2Jeru & K Jehoiachin was
forc 2surrendr
He taken captiv,reign end Mar 16,& on April 22 he march 2 Babyl
w/10M ether captive,includ mothr,proph Ezek,& royl treasures
In Babyl K Jehoi remain natnl hope 4pec Jud dur long imprisment
He was legit K of Jud,succesor 2thron Dav,& he was cal this &
e ong as he remain aliv he kep that natinlistic sp,pee aliv
But Bcuz sins thos B4 him,he no permit 2return 2Jeru 2reign &
wat G had proph thru Jer cam 2pas
Jer 22:24=READ THIS
G talk bout His seal approv here=signet=stamp approv
If K gav ring 2suml lik Phar gav 2Jos,ment persn cud act Bhalf
Wat did & sed was official
Coniah=nothr name 4 Jehoiachin & G say if Jehoi wer G's signet
ring,& if had authroty act G's Bhalf,G wud tak bak that honr/prt
& G say wud let Jehoi/pec B ovrrun by Neb & Babs=vs 25=READ
vs 26=Wat G had sed cam 2pas=Do U C wat G says wil cum tru?
It was in this foreign land that Jehoi did dy & G 4ther sed=27
Jehoi & pec long 2go bak 2homeland,but nevr did
vs 28=G asks questin=& means-Is he G's man? Was he wat G want 2B?
& wernt th/peco lik ther K so they end up lik him?
vs 29=Jer plead 4-G b4 thepe 2hear th/Word of th/Lord
vs 30=Here finl mesag & wat G sed was that K Jehoi was 2B writn
in genealogcl record as B childles evn tho had 7sons
Reason? sons wudnt succeed 2thron & he last of Sele line

Succesor 2thron of Dav pas en 2line of Nathan who shud hav actuly
bin succesor 2 K Dav
So stag set 4 drama wh/nov tak plac:K Neb had taken K Jud captiv
& put in prison along w/many subjs
37yrs gon by & Evil/Merodach now sit on thron of fathr K Neb
ILUS:K at banq tabl;dor opn & stoop sheldrd man entr in prison
c /hes;w/hw hed ask way 2end of tabl 2sit w/lessr people
But one K serves,tak by arm & Bgin lead 2hed of tabl;he protest;
ther musB mistak;but K asur no mistak & clap hands 4chair ident
lik sit en B brot 4 him;find self stan nex K Ev-Merodach mos p
powerful K that time & then seat Reid
Seat brot,Princ displac & forc mov dwn & ea succeed princ do
likwis-lik misicl chairs in palace of Babylonia
Ince agin K clap hands & ordr serve bring chng dres 4 guest
Royl clothing brot 4th & Jehoiachin,K of Jud Ince agin aftr 37
yrs is treat like roylty agin
But this only start Bcuz read Scrip=vs 23B-34
altho nevr return 2homeland,he rais 2plac of K in this fereinglan
This Ilus fr/Scrip giv us pictur wat G actul dux at latr time
histry
It many yrs latr,G cum as serv,liv in exil in 4eign land,4 a
period of time,then exchang cloths of prisnr 2tak ea garb of
rolyty
Js is that Ilus;but mor than that=He offr 2any & all who wil
acpt His invitatin, 2cum & join Him at His banquet tabl
He bids us cum & exchang our clothes of prisnrs & B eet free fr
th/prisn in wh/we liv
That prisn 4us is th/sin wh/holds us captiv & keeps us apart
fr/th/King
We liv in a 4eign land Bcuz hwn is actuly our hom & that wher we
wil go aftr we hav livd our livs in th/presenc of th/King if we
mo His sumone of=Cum un2 Me all ye that labr & R hvy ladm & I
gi J rest
Js is cal us 2join Him,not only at His tabl,but in His kngdm as
wel
(Ilus littl boy,& Boston Common as +Come On)
Jus as littl boy thot invitatin was 2-Cum On & was opn 2all,
so we mus kne this invitatin is 4ea 2cum 2Js Just as we R
He invit any & all who wil cum 2Him,2meet Him at any time
Perhap this morn U hav not acpt that invitatin of Js 2acpt His
gifts of Salv & etnl lif He so freely offr
this morn we hav that invitatin as we tak eur plac at His tabl
& eat w/Him
If U hav nevr taken Him as Ur Sav,wen U partak of th/bred & th/
cup simply say,Dear L,I acpt U as My Sav;I Bliev U hav 4giva
me of my sins,& I partak of this royl feast at Ur tabl,by Ur
invitatin 2 cum 2 You
& if U wil 2do that I wud lik 2kne,net 4numbrs sak, but that I
may get sum litratur 2U,& Evn talk 2U about it
U can talk 2me bout it briefly at door,or write me note

or give me a call

I pray that if I havnt cum 2 th/L, I will do so 2day in th/time
of Communion w/our Lord Js.

DAILY LOG SHEET

DATE:

ON LIST:

Arte, F.

Connolly, J.

Dodds, C.

Dowell, V.

Johnson, K.

Levi, R.

Marzotto, M.

Mast, M.

McKnight, J.

Miller, N.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - NOVEMBER 6, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUNG PEOPLE/YOUTH LOCKIN NOV. 11

BOOKLETS/DAILY BREAD BACK TABLE

ANNOUNCEMENT / DINNER / FELLOWSHIP

*HYMN

PRAYER/OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

SCRIPTURE: JEREMIAH 52:31-34

SERMON: "BY INVITATION" - ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 10/2/88

*HYMN

*HYMN

THE LORD'S SUPPER

*HYMN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

JACKIE

J. CAR FAMILY

HELEN

SCRIP: JER 52:31-34;(Jer 22); SERM: BY INVITATION"

(ILUS HISTORY STUDENTS ANSWERS - (MISSPELLED, ETC)

MOST OF US R BORD W/HISTORY & AT RISK OF BORE U I'S LIK 2SHAR
SUM BIBLICAL HISTRY W/YOU

ON DECEMBER 10, 598 BC K JEHOIAKIM DYD

JER 22:18-19=EXPLAIN DONKY BURAIL,JEHOIAKIM UNGODLY K& PROPH FUI

1 SUCCEED BY SON JEHOIACHIN, AGE 18 /Jcalld evil K BCUZ EVIL F

BUT NO KNO WAT KINF K WUDB BCUZ REIGN ONLY 3MOS & TAKN CAPTIV

K JEHOIAKIM-FATHR-REBEL AGIN NEB& BABYLON,BCUZ NEB BUSY EGYPT

NEB CUD NO FITE JUD & INCIT NEIBRS 2DO SO BCUZ JEHOIAKIM &

REB AGIN NEB & BABYLON

NEB FIN WAR W/EGYPT & CUM JERU & K JEHOIACHIN FORC SURENDR

HIS REIGN LAST FR/DEC 598 TO March 16, 597 & TAK CAPTIV

ON APR 22,MARCH 2BABYLON W/MOTHR,PROPH EZEK & ROYL TREASURES

IN BABYLON JEHOIACHIN LK AT AS FIGUR NATINALISTIC HOPE

LEGIT K JUDAH,SUCESOR TO DAVIS & AS LONG LIV,SO NAT. HOPE

BUT NEVER CAME HOME & ASSUM THRONE

JER 22:24=STINET DEP AUTHORITY OF KING-STAMP OF APPROVAL

EXAMPL OF JOSEPH & RING OF PHAPACH - OFFICIAL ACTION=RING

CONAITH/JECONIAH/JEHOIACHIN=ALL SAME MAN

THIS IS AN ILUS FR/SCRIP WH/GIVS US A PICTUR OF WAT G WUD ACTUL
DO AT A LATR TIME IN HISTRY

MANY YRS LATR G CAM AS SERV,LIV IN EXIL,& THEN EXCHANG CLOTHES
OF PRISNR & TUK GRAS OF ROYLTY

JS IS THAT ILUS GARE

BUT MOR THAN THAT,HE OFFRS 2ANY & ALL WHO WIL ACT HIS INVITATIN

2 M & JOIN HIM AT HIS BANQUET TABI

2 BIDS US CUM & EXCHCLOTHS OF PRISNR & B SET FREE FR/PRISM

IN WH/WE LIV

THAT PRISON 4US & TH/WORL IS TH/SIN WH/SEPS US & HOLDS US CAPTIV
& APART FR/THE KING

WE LIV FOREIGN LAND BCUZ HVN IS OUR HOME & THAT WHER WIL GO IF

AFTER HAV LIVD LIVS IN PRESENG OF TH/K IF WE ANSR HIS SUMMONS==

"CUM UN2 ME ALL YE THAT LABR & R HVY LADN,& I WIL GIV U REST"

JS CALS US 2HIS TABL & 2HIS KINGDOM

(ILUS OF BOY IN BOSTON & "BOSTON COMMONS AS COME'ON")

INVITATION TO COME TO THE TABLE/ACCEPT XP OR BOTH)

G SAYS WUD TAK BAK HONOR & PRIV FR/JEHOIACHIN BCUZ FATHER EVIL
VS 25=G PROMIS WAT WUD HAPPN

VS 26=G PROMIS 4MOTHR & SELF, CAPTIVTY & DETH IN FOREIGN LAND

VS 27=THEY DESIR 2CUM BAK & WUD NOT

VS 28=WAS HE G'S MAN? JUDG BCUZ FATHR

VS 29=JER PLEAD S FOR G TO TH/PEO

VS 30=JEHOIACHIN HAD NO CHANC RULE IN JERU & WUD LIV LIF OUT OF

TH/PLAN OF GOD

2B WRIT AS CHILDES, BUT HAD 7 SONS

MEANS HIS LISTING IN GEN RECORDS WROT NO CHILDEN

REASON?? SONS WUD NOT SUCCEED HIM TO TH/THRON

LAST OF SOLS LINE & THRON DAV PASS ON NATHAN'S LINE

HE SHUD BIN SUCCESSOR TO THRON ISTED OF SOLCMON

STAGE SET: 37YRS GO BY,NEB GON & SON-EVIL-MERODACH SIT THRONE

BANQUET PREP-TABL SET,SUMPTUOUS FEAST - GUESTS SIT IN ORDER

DOOR OPN,STOOP SHOULDR MAN ESCORT IN2ROOM & MAKS WAY END TABL

ESCORT TAK OTHR END BY K,HE PROTES,BUT K INDICAT NO MISTAK

K CLAP HANDS,CHAIR BROT LIK K'S & PRINCE MADE TO MOV DWN

PRINCE DEMAN NEX MAN MOV,ETC,-MUSICAL CHAIRS & SUMONE OF

ROYLTY MUS SIT SEAT INTEND OLD MAN

K CLAP HANDS & ASK 4ROYL CBOTHING & K JEHOIACHIN RESTOR AS KING

SCRIP VSS 31-34=K JEHOIACHIN ATE AT THE K'S TABL TH/REST OF HIS

LIF UNTIL HE DYD

"By Invitation"

Scripture: Jeremiah 52:31-34

King Jehoiakim was the reigning monarch in Judah when ~~Jerusalem was destroyed~~ -----
~~On December 10, in the year 598 B.C., King Jehoiakim died and because he was not a godly king~~
~~Jehoiakim died~~ King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon entered Jerusalem and took some captives among whom were Daniel and his three friends. He also took the golden vessels from the temple. King Jehoiakim was supposed to be taken as well. In fact, he had been placed in chains, but for some reason King Nebuchadnezzar had him released and permitted him to remain in Jerusalem while the other captives were all taken into exile in Babylon. It is believed that King Jehoiakim convinced Nebuchadnezzar that he would be a loyal ~~slave~~ servant to him if permitted to remain in Jerusalem.

At this point in the history of Judah, moral ~~decay~~ and religious decay began to set in. The heathen gods of Baal and Ashtaroah were worshiped openly at the very gates of the temple and it is believed that human sacrifices were once again offered in the valley of Hinnom. So it was that under these conditions cruelty, corruption and oppression were commonplace in Jerusalem. It was during this time that the Prophet Jeremiah wrote the words of God on a ~~new~~ scroll and gave it to ~~the~~ King Jehoiakim. When the king read of the divine judgement prophesied against Judah, he cut off leaves of the scroll and threw them into the fire. ~~After~~ About three years following this action King Jehoiakim decided to rebel against Babylonia because King Nebuchadnezzar was too busy fighting battles elsewhere, against Egypt principally.

On December 10, in the year 598 B.C. King Jehoiakim died and because he was not a godly king the people did not mourn for him and he was given a shameful burial. Jeremiah had prophesied this and we read of it in the 22nd chapter of his prophecy, at the ~~18th~~ 18th and 19, (Read these verses). His son, Jehoiachin succeeded him on the throne at the tender age of 18. But the people did not get to know what kind of a king he would have been ⁵⁹⁸ because his reign only lasted three months and 18 days. He assumed the throne ~~in~~ December following the death of his father and reigned until March 16th ~~when he was taken captive~~ 597 when he was taken captive. It is said in Scripture that he was an evil king but that is because he followed his evil father and didn't have an adequate chance to show what he would do. Since King Nebuchadnezzar couldn't fight a war with Judah he incited neighboring people to stage raids against Judah because of what King Jehoiakim was doing in defiance to the Babylonian rule over them. Nebuchadnezzar finished his war with Egypt, brought his army to Jerusalem and King Jehoiachin was forced to surrender. He was taken captive and on ~~March 16~~ March 16, his reign ended and on April 22 he was marched to Babylon with 10,000 other captives, including his mother, the prophet Ezekiel, and the royal treasures as well.

In Babylon, King Jehoiachin remained a figure of nationalistic hope during his long imprisonment. He was the legitimate King of Judah, and was called this, but he was also the legitimate successor to King David as well. Thus, as long as he was alive he kept that nationalistic spirit of the people alive.

But because of the sins of those before him he was not permitted to return to Jerusalem to reign and what God had prophesied through Jeremiah came to pass. In the 22nd chapter of

Jeremiah's prophecy we read of the further plan of God beginning with the 24th verse.

God said through the prophet: "As I live, saith the Lord, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee hence."

God is talking about His seal of approval here. The signet ring worn by a king was what was used to make something official. It was a stamp of approval so to speak. If the king gave his ring to ~~some~~ someone as Pharaoh gave his ring to Joseph, it meant that this person was able to act on behalf of the king. What he did and said was official. Coniah is another name for Jehoiachin and God is saying in this prophecy, that if Jehoiachin were God's signet ring, if he had God's authority to act on God's behalf, God would take back that honor and privilege. And God says He would let Jehoiachin and his people be overrun by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. Verse 25, He says, (Read this.

Then in verse 26, God says, (Read this verse). Jehoiachin's mother was taken to Babylon with him and the other captives. Can you see ~~how~~ that what God says, comes true? It was in this foreign land that Jehoiachin did indeed die. God further says, "But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither they shall not return."

Jehoiachin and his people longed to go back to Jerusalem, but they never did.

God asks the question, "Is this man Coniah, (Jehoiachin), a despised broken ~~man~~ idol? Is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? Wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?"

The question is, is Jehoiachin God's man? Was he what God wanted him to be? And were the people like their king so that they all ended up in a foreign land? Jeremiah pleading for God to the people before this all came to pass cried out, "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord."

He was pleading with them to ~~he~~ hear the words God had given him about this situation and then he gives the final message about this king as we read in the 30th verse, "Thus saith the Lord 'Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah.'"

What God said was this man, Jehoiachin would not have the opportunity to reign in Jerusalem and would live his life out of the plan of God. The prophet was to tell the people that this man was written up as childless. That meant in the ~~gene~~ genealogical records of the people of Judah and the kings of Judah, Jehoiachin was listed as having no children although he did indeed have seven sons. The reason for this is that his sons would not succeed him to the throne. He was the last ~~of~~ of Solomon's line and the succession to the throne of David passed to the line of Nathan, the son of David who should have actually succeeded David instead of Solomon.

That is the background to what preceded our Scripture in this last chapter of the prophecy of Jeremiah. Thus we read, (read verse 31). Evil-Merodach had succeeded his father Nebuchadnezzar and Jehoiachin had been in captivity for 37 years. He was under house arrest, but with this limited freedom was still a prisoner. The words, "Lifted up his head," simply refers to the fact that those who are in sorrow hang their heads and when that sorrow is removed the person could lift up his head. The Hebrew phrase "lift up the head" signifies to "comfort, cheer, make happy."

So the stage is set for the drama which will now take place. King Nebuchadnezzar had taken the King of Judah and many of his subjects and thrown them into prison. Thirty-seven years have gone by and Nebuchadnezzar's son, Evil-Merodach sits on the throne. He is sitting at the head of his banquet table which is laden with all sorts of food and drink. The room is one of splendour and contains all that the ancient world knew of wealth and sumptuousness. All of the royal personages are there. At the table sitting in the proper sequence according to their succession to the throne are all of the princes of Babylon.

At the side of the room a door opens and ~~availablely expressed~~ what appears to be an old stoop shouldered man is escorted into the room. With bowed head, he starts to make his way to the end of the table to sit on a chair with the lesser notables of the kingdom. But one of his escorts takes his arm and begins to walk him to the other end of the table. At first he begins to protest that there has been a mistake, but is assured that there is no mistake and finds himself standing beside King Evil-Merodach, the most powerful king of that time. The king stands up and greets the man and claps his hands and demands that one of his servants bring forth a seat identical to the one he is seated on. The royal seat is brought forth by the servants and to make room for it, one of the princes, the man next in line to the throne is displaced and the shabby visitor is seated next to the king. This causes a succession of musical chairs as each prince demands ~~that~~ the seat of the man next to him ~~until~~ until it reaches the end of the table and someone is forced to sit on the seat this visitor should have occupied.

Once again the king claps his hands and when his servants appear he orders a change of dress for his guest. The royal clothing is brought forth and Jehoiachin, the King of Judah once again after 37 years of exile is treated as royalty. But this was only the start, because for the rest of his days he ate at the king's table until he died. Although he never returned to his homeland, he was raised to the place of a king ~~man~~ in this foreign land. This illustration from Scripture gives us a picture of what God would actually do at a later time in history. It was many years later that God came as a servant, lived in exile for a period of time and then exchanged the clothes of a prisoner to take on the garb of royalty. Jesus is that illustration. But more than that, He offers to any and all who will accept His invitation to come and join Him at His banquet table. He bids us come and exchange the clothes of the prisoner and be set free from the prison in which we live. That prison for us is the sin which holds us captive and keeps us apart from the King. We live in a foreign land because heaven is actually our home and that's is where we will go after we have lived our lives in the presence of the King if we answer His summons to "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Jesus is calling us to join Him not only at His table, but in His kingdom as well. ~~This~~

(Illustration of little boy and "Boston Common's as 'Come on!')

If you read Daily Bread for this past Tuesday you read the illustration of what is called "Boston Common" in the heart of Boston. Governor John Winthrop an early puritan set aside 50 acres and it is the oldest park in the nation. It was to be a cow pasture and training field. Today it is neither but serves as a place of welcome relief. A little boy was with his parents and they came to the park. The little boy read the sign which said "Boston Common" at the entrance. With enthusiasm and excitement he called out, "It doesn't say, 'Keep off the grass,' it says, 'Come on!'" And with that he ran into the park

Just as that little boy ~~xx~~ thought the invitation was to "Come on," and was open to all, so we must know that the invitation is for each one to come to Jesus, "Just as we are." He invites any and all who will come to Him, to meet Him at any time. Perhaps this morning you have not accepted the invitation of Jesus to come to Him and to accept His gifts of Salvation and eternal life which He offers so freely. This morning we have that invitation as we can take our place at His table and sup with Him. If you have never taken Him as your Savior, when you partake of the bread and the cup, simply say, "Lord Jesus, I accept you as my Savior, I believe that You now forgive me of my sins, and I partake of this Royal feast at Your table by Your invitation to come to You." And if you are willing to do that, I would like to know so that perhaps I can give you some literature and talk to you about this. You can write me a note, or tell me privately. I pray that if you haven't come to the Lord, you will do so today.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor October 9, 1988
Guest Speaker, Rev. Collins Defibaugh
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Mike Gamble and Megan Hewis
+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
Prelude "Hymn of Nuns"
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting:
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Proclamation Hymn No. 658 "O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission
High Fulfilling"
*Aserption
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) We beseech thee, O God to deepen
and broaden our commitment. Take our eyes away from
ourselves and our own interests and help us to see
the needs of others and the conditions of life they
face. Help us to know that when we do not reach out
to the underfed, the homeless, the frustrated
humanity around us we sin because of our indifference.
Forgive us and give us more love and compassion
toward all of your children. Through Christ. Amen.
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.
Prayer
Offering
Offertory "Berceuse in A"
*Doxology - page 382
Scripture: Matthew 25: 34-40
Special Presentation from St. Paul's Home
*Invitational Hymn No. 398 "Rise Up, O Men of God"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mrs. Emogene Massey has placed the flowers on the altar
in memory of Loved Ones.
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Taylor will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.
Members of Youth Group will be Ushering this morning.
Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 9 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Shirley Link.
Lloyd Link and Rick Vinroe will be visiting the hospital
this week.
Van driver for Sunday October 16th will be Ken Draxinger.
Hospitalized: Kay Brown, Kathryn Bancroft in BMH. - *OUT*
SCHEDULE FOR THIS COMING WEEK: *MONDAY*
Tuesday - Soup & Salad Day This is served from 11:30
to 1:30 and Supper from 5:00 to 7:00. Tickets
are \$3.00 and children's tickets are available.
Please bring your Bazaar items in on Monday
or early Tuesday morning in time for noon sales.
Your help will be greatly appreciated. We will
be cutting up vegetables on Monday morning if you
would like to help us out.
Saturday - 10:00 A.M. we will be holding our try-outs
for the Christmas Program. Please bring the
children that can read so we can get the parts
assigned. We are looking for a good turn out.
October 16th we will be taking new members into our
church family. If you or anyone you know is interested
in joining, please let the office or Pastor know.
Remember, we are now back to our Sunday Evening Bible Study.
Won't you come join us? We would like to have you.
We are still looking for a volunteer to help us line up
help for the Nursery each Sunday. If you would like to
do this little job, please let the office know or LuAnn
Janicki. We could really use your help.
At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor October 16, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and John Penrod

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 16 "Tell Me the Old, Old Story"
*Ascription
*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) We offer to thee, O Father,
praise for the gift of thy Spirit. We are made
aware that your love is given to us in many ways.
When we are full of doubt, when we are lonely,
when we show unbelief, it is your Spirit that fills
us with your truth. And when we burn with hatred,
or anger, or selfishness, it is your Spirit which
speaks to us with your love. Forgive us, and may
your Spirit live, guide, and direct us in all ways.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Kyrrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Moment

Hymn No. 34 "Holy Bible, Book Divine"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

The Reception of New Members

Anthem: "How Sweet The Sound"

Scripture: Psalm 1

Sermon: "Loving The Word"

*Invitational Hymn No. 479 "Fill Thou My Life, O Lord
My God"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mrs. Kitty Feder in memory of Loved Ones.

Greeters at the door this morning will be Mr. & Mrs.

Bill Sheppeck. Welcome members and guests.

Ushering today will be members of the Youth Group.

Attendance last Sunday was 116 with 13 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Kelly Mangel and

Wendy Norman.

Art Snyder and Howard Jalliet will be visiting the
hospital this week.

Van Driver for October 23 will be Dick Mangel.

Hospitalized: Ed Hampton in BMH.

Schedule of Activities for this week:

> Sunday - Bible Study at 7 P.M.

Activities Committee will meet following the
Bible Study at 8:00 P.M.

> Wednesday - 7:00 P.M. we are having an instruction
meeting on how to operate the PA System. If you
are interested, please show up.

Thursday - we will begin at 8:30 a.m. to cut up apples
and make sauce.

Friday - again we will begin to make apple sauce at
8:30 a.m. Bring along a sack lunch and spend
the day.

Saturday - apple butter starts at 6:00 a.m. We need
lots of fire starters and stirrers.

Today we will be taking new members into the church.

They are: Kelly Jo, Marge and John Stevenson, Judy
Winrader and Kathy Goda. Please take a minute and make
them feel welcome.

> EMERGENCY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS meeting today immediately
following the service. Please make the effort to be
there.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 30, 1994

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

BOOKLETS ON TABLE IN NARTHEY, DAILY BREAD
LORD'S SUPPER NEXT SUNDAY
ANNUAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY, FELLOWSHIP DINNER AFTER CH

WV REF J. 10/30/94

- *HYMN
- PRAYER/OFFERING
- *DOXOLOGY
- PASTORAL PRAYER
- HYMN
- SCRIPTURE: PSALM 1
- SERMON: "LOVING THE WORD" - ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 10/16/88
- *HYMN
- *BENEDICTION
- *POSTLUDE

ANDY
FRANK - J. 10/30/94
JACKIE - J. 10/30/94
HELEN - J. 10/30/94
FRANKIE

21 NOV RAGY SHOW

THE BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - OCTOBER 30, 1994

CHURCH: LAW FIRM= WORLD

JUNE: GOD

FAKE LAWYER= SATAN

FAKE BUSINESS= CHURCH - OWNED BY JESUS

QUALITY MERCHANDISE= BIBLE

TRESPASSER= CHURCH MEMBERS

WE INVITE IN & AMANY NO GROWTH BYON

MUS IERN MERCHANDIZ BIBL - HOW WE HANDL IT?

MT 22:34-40

HOW DO THIS? LERN FR/BIBL 2APLY PRINCIPLES OF JS & BIBL

PSALM 1:1 DIF TWEEN SAINT/SINNR, (EXPL SAINT)

BLESSED/HAPINES & HAINES PLURAL

EXPLAIN COUNSEL UNGOODLY, LIE/CHEAT/STEAL ETC

VS 2=BIBL & WAT DIZ G WANT FR/US?? - #2614 -OBEDIENCE

(ILUS OLD WOMAN NO OBEDIENCE)

HOW DO WE OBEY G? WAT IS OUR DELITE? WE MUS OBEY

VS 3=EXPL TREE & HAPINES OF G'S MAN

VS 4=REWARDS 4B G'S MAN/WOMAN

VS 6=HOW G WIL RESOLVDIF TWEEN RITUS/UNWITUS/GODLY/UNGODLY

2ND PRINCIPLE LUV CTURE # 2201

(ILUS WOMAN FIVE FEET ALL WE-HOUSE SAY SHE DIF LIV WITH

EXPERIMENT LUV RT/LFT/WHEN SPHINT THINK OTHR PERSON

WE TAUT LUV OTHRS PERIOD, NO CONDITINS

(ILUS DR. CRISWELL & YNG GIRL PROSTITUTE)

THIS WAT CH IS FOR, NO BAKERY/COFF/SLANDER

MUS SHOW LUV ON OTHRS AS BIL SHOWD ON US

LUV WE TALK BOUT HERE MUSB GARY OUTSID

(ILUS ALEXANDER GET E. E. KINGDOM=IT'S 4HIM WHO CAN TAK IT)

WE R PART THAT KINGDM & IT OURS 4TAK, BUT ALSO PGIV 2OTHS THRU

JS XP

WE CAN ONLY LUV HIM IF ALSO LUV HIS WORD

FIRST TO LUV G W/EVERYTHING, THEN LUV OTHRS LIK SELVS

WE NEED BRING SELVS 2YI, & STRIV TO BRING OTHRS AS WELL

SCRIP: PS 1 ; SERM: "LOVING THE WORD"

(ILUS LAW FIRM & LAWYER W/OUT QUALIFICATINS)

I'M SUR ALL US WUD APLAUD MOV BY JUDG AS LEGAL JUSTIC, ~~THESE~~ ^{THESE}

BUT WAIT! HOL TH/PHON - WUD WE APLAUD IF IN SHOES ~~THESE~~ ^{THESE} ~~LAWYR~~???

MAY ASK- HOW CUD I B IN THOZ SHOES WEN BIN HONES ALL MY LIF???

IT UNTHINKBL I WUD EVR DO ANYTH LIK THAT & MAYB VERY TRUE

B! LETS LK INCIDENT & SORT OUT CHARCTRS:

LAW FIRM=WORLD* ~~JUDG~~ ^{JUDG} IS GOD

YNG LAWYR HIRED WHO IS FAKR=SATAN*

FAMLY BUSNES=CHURCH ~~OWNED BY GOD, FATHER, (JE XP~~ -SON, & H SP

QUALTY MERCHANDISE=BIBLE*

TRESPASSER/DEFENDANT=MEMBERS WHO CUM INTO FAMLY BUSINESS

DIF LITE CN PARBL,RT??

WE INVIT CUM INTO FAMLY BUSNES=CH, & HAV RITE HAV HAND IN IT

BUT PROB=IS THOZ CUM INTO CH/FAMLY BUSNES & GROWTH END

2B PART CH/FAMLY BUSNES EA MEMBR NEED LERN WAT MERCHANDIS IS

WAT WE SAYIT WAS? BIBLE* - HOW DO WE HANDL THAT MERCH??

MT 22:34-40

HOW DO WE LUV G LIK THIS?? LERN MERCH OF TH/BUSNES - TH/BIBLE

WAT JS PTS OUT R PRINCIPLS & THEZ GODLY PRIN, & NEVR CHNG

SCRTP IS BIB PRINC & NEVR, NEVR CHNG

PS 1:1=DIF TWEEEN SAINT & SINNR - GODLY & UNGODLY

BLESSED=HAPPY

HAPPINES BASED ON WAT GODLY - NOT WORBLY, CHEAT, STEAL, ETC

VS 2+G'S LAW=BIBL, TEXBUK * G SPKS 2US FR/IT & WE 2 LUV G

#2614 - THOMPSON CHAIN - READ - OBEDIENCE*

(ILUS OLD WOMAN & DISOBEDIENCE)

HOW DO WE REPV G? HOW ORED P WE?? WAT IS OUR DELITE?? - VS 2*

WE ASK - WAT'S IN IT FOR ME??

VS 3+G'S MAN IS BLESSED - HAPPY*

VSS 4-5=REWARDS FOR BEING G'S MAN/WOMAN

VS 6=HOW G WIL RESOLV DIF TWEEEN RITS/UNWRITUS, GODLY/UNGODLY

1. 2ND PRINCIPLE=LUV OTHERS - WE R TAUT 2LUV OTHERS

WAT'S BIBLICL, ITS SCRIPTURAL

#2201 - THOMPSON CHAIN - READ - LUV OTHERS*

(ILUS WOMAN FITE DEVIL & HUSBAND SAY=SHE'S TUF 2LIV WITH")

TRUE - EXPERIMENT=LUK PERSN RT, THEN LET, OR PERSON BSID U

MAY NOT KNO PROBS THAT PERSN HAS, BUT EA HAS THEM

U MAY NEVR HAV SOT TO LUV THAT PERSN BCUZ PRE-CONCEIV NOTINS

OR HERD THIS/THAT BOUT HIM/HER

LISTEN=WE R TAUT TO LUV ONE ANOTHER - PERIOD, NO CONDITINS*

(ILUS DR. CRISSWELL & YNG GIRL PROSTITUTE)

THIS WAT CH IS FOR - THIS IS WAT U & I 2B ABOUT*

NO MATTR WHO STEPS IN2 CH, GOSSIP, BAKBITE MUS CEAS & LUV G SHOWR

ON US, MUSB SHOWR ON OTHERS

LUV WE TALK BOUT HER, MUSB CARY OUTSID

LIK SUN SKUL HYMN=BRING THEM IN, BRING TH/LITTL ONES TO JS

(ILUS ALEXANDER TH/GRT & HIS KINGDOM)

TH/KINGDM IS 4THE TAKING IN TH/NAM OF JS XP

IN HIS NAM WE CAN TAK THIS APPA 4HIM, IN HIS NAM WE CAN TAK THIS

CH & PRESENT IT TO HIM

WE CAN OFFR OURSELVS & ALL OTHERS 4HIS SERVIC

BUT CAN ONLY HAPPN IF WE LUV HIM & LUV HIS WORD

IF LUV HIS WORD WE WIL LUV G 1ST, & THEN LUV ALL OTHERS

WE NEED TC BRING OURSELVS TO XP, & STRIV BRING OTHERS AS WELL

Ilus lawyr fake, & famly busnes:

Law Firm=World

Yng lawyr=Satan

Famly busnes=Ch, own by G, Js Xp, H Sp.

qualty merchandiz=Bible

Trespasr/defendant=Membrs cum in? famly busnes-Ch

Mt 12:35-36-Lgv G & luv othrs

Principles-absolutes

Ps 1

vs 1=happy is man; counslr, sinnrs

vs 2=Bibl, G's Word=not dear Ab, But Eagl, Wal St Jur

Th/Chain=2614

(Ilus 93 yr old woman & disobed)

Bargin w/G bout time we giv 2Him perhaps

vss 4-5=rewards thoz no folo Him

vs 6=cp tween godly/ungodly

2nd principle=luv othrs-Th/Chain 2201

(Ilus woman testimony & wrestl w/devil=husband)

(Experiment luk at othrs Bsid U)

(Ilus Dr. Criswell & prostitute acpt Xp, join Ch)

Old SS hymn=BRING THEM IN, BRING THEM IN, BRING THE

LITTL ONES TO JESUS

(Ilus Alex Grt & genrals ask bout kingdom)

"Loving the word"

Scripture: Psalm 1
 (Ilus lawyer who is a fake & takes ovr famly busnes)
 I'm sur all wud applaud me by judg as B legl justic
 But wait! Hold th/phon!
 Wud we applaud his decisin if we wer in shoes of ~~you~~ ^{THE LAWYER} ~~lawyer~~? ^{OFF}
 But U asks: How cud I B in thoz shoes w/all my lif I've try 2B
 he it in evrthing? Why it unthinkbl I evr do anyth lik that
 & that mayB very,very tru, but lets lk at incident & sort out
 th/cast of charactrs
 Lets supos Law Firm rep world
 Yng lawyr hired who was fak is Satan
 Famly busnes is Ch & is ownd by G Fathr, Js Xp Son, & H Sp
 quality merchandiz that sold is Bible
 Trespasser/defendant is membra cum in2 that famly busnes
 This then put dif lite on parabl duznt it?
 Now truth of matt'r is, we R invit in2 this famly & hav rt Zhav har
 hand at run it
 But prob ly w/thoz cum in2 ch & growth stop ther
 2B ~~xxxx~~ part ownd of th/Ch ea membr need lern merchandiz of
 th/busnes
 & wat did we say merchandiz was? =Th/Bible!
 How do we handl that merchandiz?
 Mt giv illus of Js/Phars/Sadd's in Mt 22
 vs 35-36>this very famly Scrip & U mayB say:I've herd B4
 & U R rite,U hav herd B4,& U wil hear agin Bcu2 it import & it
 bears repeat
 Wat is it G wants us 2kno? WE R 2LUV G & WE R 2LUV OTHERS
 its simpl, but how do we discover this?
 How do we lern 2 luv G?
 Ansr is=We do this by kno & undretan ~~max~~ th/merchandiz that is ir
 atok in th.famly ownd busnes=THAT IS TH/BIBLE
 'rip this morn pt out 2thz 2things
 .noz 2things Js pt out R cal=PRINCIPLES
 Principles R wat we liv by;mos them R absolutes wh/mean they nevr
 chng & Bib principles R Always Absolutes & Nevrr,Nevrr, chng
 regardles wat chng in socity,Bib principles nevr chng
 This Psalm pt out dif tween saint & sinnr
 tween godly & ungodly
 vs 1=If remem Bestitude, word=Blessed means Happy, how happy, or
 tru happiness
 man who Blong 2-G is truly happy
 Counsel=world say do it, it OK, cheat, steel, etc-but that wrong &
 G's man wil not do it
 G's man duznt liv lik sinnrs, nor is he fil w/pesimism, sour, etc.
 vs 2=Bible, G's Word is texbuk of lif
 It not Zhvy 2bring 2chiwe lrt lern of lif fr/Dear Abby, Butl'r
 Eagl, Wal 6t Jurnl-we lern fr/G's word
 we lern fr/pag- how 2luv G-G spks thru it's pages
 Examples fr/Thompson Chain #2014

this how many peo sery Him, wld chad 2cartin pt, & Byon wilnot go
 I alsoo believ sumtimes peo bargin w/2=like U can hav Sun morn,
 but that allgor wad I can spur, but busy othrwise, etc
 Our luv 2-G shudB w/out conditin plac upon it & this wat B rry
 2convey in 1st Psalm
 If truly luv 2, then no ifs, ands, buts how it sit our delite 2liv
 & 2this law & this caus sedtar on it day/nite
 This simpl mean we seek knowl of G & seek 2liv 4 Him
 But rite ask=Wat is it Ume? & enrr ind remaind of Psalmvs 3
 lif giv evidenc of seek aftr G, Bcu2 G go 2giv byon wat evr giv 2
 God
 vs 4-5=G pts out rewards of not folo aftr Him
 vs 6=cp tween godly/ungodly & how G resolv livs of ea
 2nd Principle=Luv othrs
 that means luv evn thoz no want 2luv & once agin G's Word tel
 us this principle unmistakbl wordings=Thomps Chain #2201
 We R tol 1st by G, & then by Js Himself, it bears repeat
 (Ilus woman giv tesmony bout wrestl w/devil & husband respond)
 Wel mayB ther R sum peo who seem 2B tuf 2liv with, but if we all
 really try 2put 4th sum extra efort, we may find it canB dun
 (Experiment: Lk peren on rt, No, Lk at peren on lef, wel lk suml)
 MayB U dont kno that peren 2wel, but if U wud ask U wud find that
 ea us here this morn hurts sumhow
 & U thot U war th only 1 w/a prob this morn
 U may nevr hav truly sot 2luv Bcu2 U may hav herd this/that bout
 that peren sit nex 2U
 LISTEN! We R taut 2luv 1 nothr & thats strait fr/th/Word
 (Ilus Dr. Crisswell & prostitute jojn church)
 This is wat th/ch is 4
 This is wat U & I R 2B about
 it matt'r not who th/peren is who steps in2 th/Ch, th/roscip &
 bakbiting mus ceas & th/luv that G has showrd upon us was Brin
 showrd upon thoz who dont kno Xp as ther Sav
 That luv needs 2reach outsid of this Ch & lik th/old hymn from
 th/Bginns clas of our SS used 2sing=BRING THEM IN, BRING THEM IN,
 BRING THE LITTLE ONES TO JESUS
 (Ilus Alexander th/Grt at deth & his Generals ask bout kingdom)
 Th/kingdm is 4 th/taking in th/Nam of Js Xp
 We can tak this area 4 Xp if U R serius about it
 4 His Servic if U really mean it
 But it can only hapi if Mx we R truly luvng th/word & that
 means luvng G & luvng othrs
 But we mus 1st bring ourselves
 That invitatin is extend 2U fr/Him=Wat wil U do w/it?

"Loving The Word"

Scripture: Psalm 1

(Illustration of law firm and lawyer without qualifications)

A large, prominent law firm needed a young, bright young man to be groomed to take the place of one of their firm who had recently retired. They interviewed countless numbers of men and finally chose a very promising young man. Although his credentials were from ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ and a smaller obscure college and ~~law~~ law school, he seemed to have what they were looking for and he was hired.

The first case entrusted to him was a rather important one, but it appeared that even though the verdict would go against their client, the experience would prove to be invaluable to this young man. He was to defend a man who had taken over a prominent family owned business. In this small town, there was a family business that had been in this family for several generations. They sold a variety of merchandize and were a trusted name in that community. One day, without any warning, this man appeared in the store and announced that he was now the owner of the business and everything would be handled by him. Naturally, the real owners protested and took the necessary steps to have this trespasser removed, but he took counter legal steps and the case had to go to court to be decided. This is where the young lawyer came in. His opening remarks to the jury sent a shock wave through the court when he declared that this squatter had the legal right to this family owned business because it was simply there for the taking. The judge was reluctant to let this type of reasoning continue, but as the trial moved on the young lawyer became more and more outrageous in his defense and the judge halted the trial for a few days in order to do some research. His research was into the background of the lawyer and he discovered that this young man was not a lawyer. He had gotten his degree through the mail for a fee and so the case was dismissed.

I'm sure that all of us would applaud this move by one judge as being legal justice. But wait! Hold the phone! Would we applaud his decision if we were in the shoes of the young lawyer in this case? But you ask, how could I be in those shoes, when all of my life has been spent in trying to be honest in everything? Why it is simply unthinkable that I would ever do anything like that. And that may be very, very true. But let's look at the incident and sort out the cast of characters.

Let's suppose the law firm represents the world.

The young lawyer hired who is a fake is Satan

The family business is ^{the Church and is} owned by God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, & the Holy Spirit.

The quality merchandise they sell is the Bible.

The trespasser/defendant is the members who come into that family owned business.

This puts a different light on the parable doesn't it? Now the truth of the matter is that we are invited into the family business and we have a right to have ^A hand at running it.

But the problem lies with those who come into the church and that is where their growth ends.

To be a part owner of the Church, each member needs to learn what the merchandize of the business is. And what did we say the merchandize was? The Bible! How do we handle that merchandize?

In Matthew's Gospel there is an illustration that is used which depicts all that is required of man in two simple statements. Jesus has been talking to the Pharisees and the Sadducees and one of the Pharisees ~~xxxxxx~~ confronts Jesus with a question. In the 22nd chapter beginning at the 35th verse we read, (Read verses 35 & 36). Jesus answers him as we read, "Jesus said unto him, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

That is a very familiar Scripture. And you may be saying, "Yeah, yeah, I've heard this before." And you are right. You have heard it before and you may hear it again, because it bears repeating. What is it that God wants us to know? That we love God and love others. It's simple. But how do we discover this? How do we learn to love God? By knowing and understanding the merchandise that is in stock in the family owned business. That is the BIBLE.

Our Scripture this morning points out both of these things. The two things Jesus pointed out are called "principles." There are all sorts of principles we live by. Most principles are absolutes which means they stay the same and never change. Biblical principles are always absolutes. They do not change with the times or the seasons. Regardless what changes in society, God's principles never, never, change. So it is then that David writes, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful," verse 1.

In this Psalm we see the difference between a godly man, the saint, and the sinner. It is the difference between those who belong to God and those who live apart from God. And the first thing we see is that the saint, is "Blessed." If you recall when Jesus was giving us what we call "The Beatitudes," the word "Blessed" appeared in front of most of them. We said that word actually meant, "Happy." It means "Happy here as well. It actually means, "How happy." So then it reads, "Happy," or, "How happy," or, "the happiness" of the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly. The man who belongs to God, or is God's man, doesn't listen to what the ungodly try to teach him. In the world in which we live we are counseled that it is OK to cheat, (everyone does it), or to tell white lies, (they never hurt anyone); or to do and say a hundred other things which we have been taught by God are wrong. So God is saying that those who do not do as the ungodly, nor seek to follow in sin, nor have a cynical outlook on life are happy.

Then notice what causes the saint of God to be happy. God says, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night," verse 2.

In other words, The Bible, God's law becomes for the godly person the textbook of life. It is not just something that we open in church on Sunday morning, (if we even bother to carry that 20 or 30 pound weight to church). At least that is what some people would imply because they refuse to bring theirs for whatever their unwarranted reason. The Bible is where we learn of God. It doesn't come from the Butler Eagle, or Dear Abby's column, or the death notices, (although they teach us that life isn't permanent on this earth); nor does it come from the Wall Street Journal. God speaks to us through the pages of His book. The number one Principle is to "Love God." God commands it of us and Scripture after Scripture point this out. (Examples of these Scriptures from 2614 in Thompson Chain).

(Illustration of 93 year old woman and disobedience)

A man was telling his mother about a friend who had died and left three small children. His mother said, "Why couldn't it have been me? I am ninety-three years old and she was so young. I've worked hard all of my life to serve the Lord, and I'm ready to go."

The man responded, "Mother, the Lord has left you here on earth for a purpose. He must have something else He wants you to do."

And she quickly replied, "Well, I'm telling you right now, I'm not gonna do it."

And that's about the size of how many people serve Him. They will be obedient up to a certain point, and beyond that they will not go. I almost believe that people bargain with God

about their commitment. Maybe they say to Him, "Well God, You can have my Sunday morning, I'll be there for church, but don't expect me to give you the evening, or any other time during the week." Or maybe they say, "Wednesday night I'm free, but gee, my week is pretty full and You shouldn't expect me to give up all my time for You.

Our love to God should be without our conditions placed upon it. This is what God is trying to convey in this 1st Psalm. If we truly love God, this means a commitment to Him without any ands, ifs, or buts. It is our delight to live according to His law, and this causes our response to be meditating upon it day and night. This simply means that we seek the things of God with every waking moment. To live for Him in other words.

But perhaps the question is raised, "What's in it for me, if I do this?" And the answer is found in the remainder of the Psalm. God's man is blessed, (read verse 3). His life gives the evidence of seeking after God, because God is going to give him beyond what he ever gives to God.

God also points out the rewards of not following after Him, ~~xxxxxxx~~ (read verses 4 & 5). And then in the last verse God restates the comparison in capsule form the difference between the godly and ungodly, and how God will resolve the lives of both, (read verse 6). But there is the 2nd principle that God has given to us, and that is the principle of "Love others." Now strangely enough that means many people we don't want to love. Once again, God's Word tells us this principle in clear unmistakable wording. (Read these examples of loving others from Thompson's Chain #2201). We are told first by God, and then by Jesus Himself. It bears repeating.

(Illustration of woman giving testimony of wrestling with the old devil all week).

It was testimony night in the church. A lady got up and said, "We are living in a wicked land where sin is on every hand. I have had a terrible fight with the old devil all week." At this her husband jumped up and said, "It ain't all my fault either; she's tough to live with."

Well, maybe there are some people who seem to be tough to live with. But if we all really tried and put forth some extra effort, we may find it can be done. Let's try an experiment this morning. I want each of you to look at the person on your right! Well, that won't work will it? How about trying to look at the person on your left! Well, try to look somehow at the person sitting next to you. Maybe you don't know that person too well. But if you were to ask him or her, you would find out that somehow, somehow he or she is hurting about something. And you thought you were the only one with problems this morning! But you see, maybe you have never looked beneath that person's surface life. You may never have truly sought to show love because you have a pre-conceived notion because you may have heard this or that about him or her. Listen! We are taught to love one another, that's straight from The Word

(Illustration of Dr. Crisswell and prostitute accepting Christ)

Dr. Crisswell the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas for over 40 years tells of a time when a young girl who responded to the invitation to accept Christ. She came down the aisle and knelt at the altar rail. As she knelt there she began to cry, and soon was crying and sobbing uncontrollably. When Dr. Crisswell asked her why she was crying, she said, "I've been listening to you preach and I wanted to give my heart to Jesus and become a member of this congregation. But since I came down front here, I've been thinking about my life. I'm a prostitute. If you knew me, and these people knew me, you wouldn't want me in this church. I have a little boy, but I'm lying when I put 'Mrs' in front of my name."

There are those who would turn their noses up at someone like this and say she didn't belong in the church. Then there are those who would say that her lifestyle was nothing out of the ordinary. Many boys and girls are living promiscuously, and besides, you would have had an abortion.

Dr. Crisswell said that he spoke to her and told her that the Holy Spirit had spoken to her heart and that God brought her to Himself to wash her clean and white. Dr. Crisswell then went on to say that he has watched that boy being brought to the Sunday School as a toddler and up through each of the departments and he is now in the youth group.

This is what the church is for. This is what you and I are to be about. It matters not who the person is who steps into the church. The gossip and backbiting must cease, and the love that God has showered upon us must begin to be showered upon those who don't know Christ as their Savior. That love needs to reach outside of this church and like the old hymn from the beginners class of Sunday School used to sing, "Bring them in, bring them in, bring the little ones to Jesus."

(Illustration of Alexander the great at his death and his sons)

When Alexander the Great lay dying, his great generals gathered at his bedside and asked, "Whose is the kingdom?"

He replied, "It's for him who can take it."

The kingdom is for the taking in the name of Jesus Christ. We can take this area for Jesus Christ. In the name of Christ we can take this church and present it to Him, offering ourselves and all others for His service. But it can only happen if we are truly "Loving The Word," and that means loving God and loving others. To do that we need to bring not only others to Christ, but we must first bring ourselves. That invitation is extended to you from Him. What will you do with it?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor October 23, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: John Penrod and Lori Weisenstein

+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 21 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) O Lord, have mercy upon us for our miserable offenses against Thee. Spare thou those O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Hymn No. 365 "My Tribute"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer
Offering
Offertory "Mothers Prayers Have Followed Me"
*Doxology - page 382
Anthem: "Praise The Lord Who Reigns Above"
Scripture: Ephesians 1: 3-14
Sermon: "Loving The Lord"
*Invitational Hymn No. 363 "To God Be The Glory"
*Closing Chimes
*Benediction
*Postlude
+ + + + + "Congregation Standing" + + + + +

NEXT WK EXTRA HOUR SUNDAY

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Weisenstein have placed the flowers on the altar in memory of Loved Ones.
Mr. & Mrs. Coyle Fowler will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.
Ushering today will be Dick Mangel, Dick Dally, Don Kingsley and George Pflugh.
Attendance last Sunday was 110 with 7 visitors.
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Cheryl Martin.
Ken Draxinger and Dick Dally will be visiting the hospital this week.
Van Driver for October 30th will be Marty Henry.
Hospitalized:

- >SOUP & SANDWICH luncheons are beginning today immediately following the service. They are again hosted by the Youth Group, so please come out and support us and our projects. Plan to share lunch with us.
- RUMMAGE SALE will be held November 3 & 4th daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please remember to hold on to any saleable items for us. You may bring in your items on November 2nd from 10-2 and 6-8. All proceeds from this will go into the Van Fund.
- >We are pleased to have a new Nursery chairman; she is Mrs. Cenny Nohach. She will be calling on you to help out in the Nursery on Sundays, so please be willing to serve when called. We need everyone to help us out, not just the same few.
- Volunteers are needed to help the Salvation Army with its annual Christmas assistance drive for the lonely and needy. If you would like to donate some time please call Captain Carver at the Salvation Army at 287-5632.
- >Remember the little white envelopes in the back of the pews are for the St. Paul's Home Alzheimers Disease Center if you would like to contribute to it. This will be done only till the end of the month through the church.
- >November 6th is Election and Adoption of the 1989 Budget. Those nominated for Deacon are: Donley Martin, LuAnn Janicki, Ray Isherwood, Don Kingsley, Myra Colgate, Jim Gannon. Bob Weisenstein, and Daryl Morrison. Those nominated for Elder are Rod Rensel, Paul Reimer and Sandy Shoppeck.
- >APPLE BUTTER pick up is immediately following the service only!!! Not between Sunday School and Church.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
OF SAGAMORE**

November 8, 1998

PASTOR RALPH LISK WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

****HYMN...** He Touched Me #628

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

****DOXOLOGY**

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN Jesus Saves- #667

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2: 3-14

SERMON: "Loving The Lord"

****INVITATIONAL HYMN** It Is No Secret #581

****BENEDICTION**

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray for mediation or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist if you so desire.

Please ... 1

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
OF THE WEEK.....**

- * Anyone interested in joining the church please see Ralph
- * **November 15, 1998:** A special offering will be taken for Purpose of finishing the windows
- * **November 22, 1998:** Thanksgiving dinner following the Church service. Annual Church meeting.
- * Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.

PICTURES FOR POTENTIAL DIRECTORY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

November 13-----Jessica Reeger

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

212 DEEP LOVE HOME

ROB

CHALLENGE

JOURNAL - CALDER

MARIA

BARB

"Loving The Lord"

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

(Ilus SS teachr & = Shut up while I teach U bout th/luv of G)
Altho she ment wel & was try 2do her duty as teachr, th/luv of G IS LOVE

We spok las wk bout wat requir of us & that 2fold principl
"R=let = Luv G w/hart/soul/mind

Then we R 2luv othrs

A part of luv G is 2lern of Him fr/His Word & so we determ as Blievr we shudB=Loving The Word
Lern 2luv G thru His Word is 1st part & 2nd part is lik un2 it, that is, 2determ why we shud luv Him

We red sevrll Scrips las wk that pt ouf we shud obey Him

In Rom 13:10 we read=LUV IS TH/FULFILLING OF TH/LAW
so in ordr 2luv G we mus obey His laws & wen we obey his laws we mus luv in ordr 2fulfil them

Now that may seem lik doubtl talk, so lets lk mor closely
Around 60-61 AD man sat in prsn cel in Rome & this man had bin th/mos arden anti-Xpian in th/worl
Yet he wrote vs 3 of Scrip

Thus Bgins lngest sentenc in Nt

in orig Grk this sentenc exten fr vs 3 to vs 14

Th/author of cors is Apoc P

Afr his conversn on rd 2 Damas, he Bcam th/mos arden folowr of Js Xp & Bc pntes defendr of th/Chrch in th/worl

ast was th that made this dramatic turnnd fr/B th/preses persecutr of th/Ch 2Bcum its grretes defendr?

1st of cors was fac 2fac encountr w/Js Xp

but wen Js comisin him 2aposth/Gospl, he Bcam completly comitd 2 Luvng Th/Lord

4him this entail use wat had lern bout G as educatd Rabbi & aply 2wat G did thru Js Xp

ot 2bring 2this Ch at Eph th/measg that 4them & all Blievrz ther is joy wh/thers Bcuz of th/luv of G

Wat is that joy? How has G bles us=vs 3B?

in vs 4P ansr & wat P writ shud bogl any Blievrz mind wen he knows th/complet implicatins here

Wat P say is evr persn acpt Xp as L & Sav was chosn by G 2do so B4 G evr Bgan creatin of worl.

Can U pictur wat this mean? It mean B4 G evr Bgan any work of creatin, He knu anv & all who profes nam of Js Xp, by name B4 Creatin Bgan

(Ilus Kenneth Wuest, Bibl scholar & Moody teachr)

This elaboratin was Apoc Jn say his lettrtl Jn 4:10=HEREIN IS LUV, NOT THAT WE LUVD G, BUT THAT HE LUVD US

B4 we evr knu anvth bout G, infac, B4 there was evr worl, or thot bout anv of us, G knu us & prep way 2 Himself 4us

Duznt that giv U sens of awe, that G creatr all things, luvd U & knu U 4centuries & centuries?

it shud & we shud get dwn on our knees & giv Him our endles praise & thankgiv

shyding to 2 say one response G want 4us in return & that 2/

One reason is 4us

Ilus the Harry Miller & hisdly news & 4 more

This wat surrendr 2-G all bout; but how do we surrendr 2Him?

Or perhapahav we surrendr 2Him?

We do this by acknowldg He musB in control thez livs & we R wil 2seek His will 4us

mean we alway feel gud bout do His will? Of cors dont & how many times questin prayr, go 2 Ch? & I sur we all do this if hones & hav felt G not near, nor w/us

Moses gud exampl G's man this way=(EXAMPL Moses & want 2dy, etc)
Alfrd Lord Tennyson sed=THEIR LIVS MOR FAITH IN HONES DOUBT, BLIEV ME, THAN IN HALF TH/CREDS

& wat hapn wen U doubt G? At sumtin in near futur He did sumth 2mak U awar He ther all th/time

(Exempl pray 4woman at Council & result) dif

This woman sed she saw in one our membs sumth no C othrs wat was it? She saw Js Xp shin thru

is this sumth only certin peo can hav?

No! It sumth G want 4ea us

surrendr 2-G is wat it takes, & surrendr is wat He wants wen we wil 2surrendr completly 2-Him, then He wil 2liv in us & 2R evident in our livs regardless of circumstances

(Ilus Richard Wurmbrand & communist beatings of preachers)

How cud thez men do this?

Was it Bcuz they R strngr than any of us?

Is ther faith that much bettr?

NO! NO!, th only ansr is =GOD

Only a complet surrendr 2 GOD is th/ansr

Wat is UR ansr 2His call?

Is its latr, or, Sum othr time

Wat path wil we tred? God's? or our own?

(Ilus Geo MacDonald & poem, "Path I Feard" #6125-7700 Ilus)

R Luvng Th/Lord Bcuz U hav completly surrendr 2 Him?

If U havnt, wil U acpt His invitatin & cum & folo Him?

(Ilus SS teachr & mas inatentin/disruptiv Bhavior
& exasperatd shout=WIL U SHUTUP WHIL I TEACH U BOUT LUV OF G?

Rom 13:10=LUV IS TH/FULFILLING OF TH/LAW

Eph 1:3=Bgin lnges sentenc NT

Cp P B4 & aftr conversin

Vs 4 & meaning of it

! Wuest Bibl scholar/Moody Teachr:

WE WER CHOSN IN ETERNITY,B4TH/univers was formd. but wondr of
WONDRS,THIS CHOIC WAS NEVR MADE. G CANOT B SED IN TH/LAST ANAL*
YSIS 2DECID UPON ANY CORS OF ACTIN. THAT CHOIC IS AS ETRNL AS
G IS,4 G HAS HAD THAT INDIVIDUL IN HIS HART 4SALVATIN AS LNG AS
HE-GOD-HAS BIN IN EXISTENC. WAT A SALVATIN,BASD UPON ETRNL
CHOIC,WH/EXTENDS THRU TIME IN2,& THRUOUT TH/ETRNITY AFTR TIME
CEASES. & THEN SUM DEAR CHILDREN OF G R AFRAID THAT AFTR G HAS
SAVD THEM,THEY CANB LOST

I JN 4:10

(Ilus Sir Harry Lauder on news of son's deth in WW I)

WEN A MAN CUMS 2 A THING LIK THIS,THER R JUS 3WAYS OUT OF IT

THER IS DRINK:THER IS DESPAIR & THER IS GOD

BY HIS GRACE THE LAST IS FOR ME

~~{Ilus woman pray for a son's results saw diff in a Ch/membr}~~

~~xxxxxx~~ Alf Lord Tennyson wrot:

THER LIVS MOR FAITH IN HONES DOUBT,BLIEV ME THAN IN HALF TH/CRE

(Ilus woman pray 4at Council-results=saw dif in a Ch/membr)

(Ilus Richard Wurmbrand & Communist beatings)

Geo MacDonald Scottish preachr wrote:

I SED,LET ME WALK IN TH/FIELDSHE SED-NO WALK IN TH/TOWN

I SED,THER R NO FLOWRS THER:HE SED NO FLOWRS,BUT A CROWN

I SED,BUT TH/SKIES R BLAK:THER IS NUTHIN BUT NOIS & DIN

& HE WEPT AS HE SENT ME BAK,THER IS MOR,HE SED,THER IS SIN

I SED,BUT TH/AIR IS THIK & FOGS R VEILING TH/SKY

H' NSRD,YET SOULS R SIK & SOULS IN TH/DARK UNDONE

I SED,I SHAL MIS TH/LITE & FREINDS WIL MIS ME THEY SAY

HE ANSWRD,CHOCZ 2NITE IF I AM 2MIS U OR THEY

I PLEADED 4 TIME 2B GIVN:HE SED IS IT HARD 2DECIDE?

IT WIL NOT SEEM HARD IN HVN 2HAV FOLLOWD TH/STEPS OF UR GUIDE

I CAST ONE LUK AT TH/FIELDS,THEN SET MY FACE 2 TH/TOWN

HE SED,MY CHILD DO U YIELD? WIL U LEAV TH/FLOWRS 4 TH/CROWN?

THEN IN2 HIS HAND WENT MINE:& IN2 MY HART CAME HE

& I WALK IN A LITE DIVIN,TH/PATH I HAD FEARD 2C

"Loving The Lord"

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

(Illustration of Sunday School Teacher and the love of God)

A Sunday School teacher was trying to teach her class, but her efforts were met with mass inattention and disruptive behaviour. Finally, completely exasperated she shouted, "Will you shut up while I teach you about the love of God!"

Although she meant well and was trying to do her duty as a teacher, the love of God is "Love." We spoke last week about what is required of us and that is a twofold principle. We are to first, love God, and then we are to love others. A part of loving God is to learn of Him from His Word, and so we determined that ~~we~~ as believers we should be, "Loving The Word." ~~But we need to also be, "Loving The Lord."~~ But we need to also be, "Loving The Lord." Learning to love God through His Word is the first part, and the second part is like unto it and that is, to determine why we should love Him.

We read several Scriptures which pointed out that we should obey His law. It is in the 13th chapter of Romans the 10th verse that we learn, "Love is the fulfilling of the law." So in order to love God we must obey His laws, and when ^{we} obey His laws, we must love in order to fulfill them. Now that may sound like doubletalk, so let's look at this more closely.

~~There was no Christian~~ Around 60 or 61 A.D. a man sat in a prison cell in Rome. This man had been the most ardent anti-Christian in the world. Yet, he wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ," Ephesians 1:3.

Thus, begins the longest sentence perhaps in the whole Bible. In the original Greek this sentence extends from verse three through verse fourteen. The author of course was the Apostle Paul. After his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, he became the most ardent follower of Jesus Christ and the greatest defender of the faith in the world. What was it that made this dramatic turnaround from being the greatest persecutor of the church to become its greatest defender? First, of course, was his face to face encounter with Jesus Christ. But when Jesus commissioned him to spread the Gospel, he became completely committed to "Loving The Lord." For him this entailed using what he had learned about God as an educated Rabbi and applying it to what God did through Jesus Christ.

Paul sought to bring to this Church at Ephesus the message that for them and all believers there is a joy that is theirs because of the love of God. What is that joy? How has God "Blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ?" "I'm glad you asked!" we can almost picture Paul as saying as he precludes what these new believers in Ephesus might be asking as they seek to ~~grow~~ grow in the faith.

To answer he adds, (read verse 4.) What Paul has written here should boggle any believer's mind when he knows the complete implications stated here. What Paul is actually saying is that every person who accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior was chosen by God to do so BEFORE God ever began His creation of the world. Can you picture what that means? It means that before God ever began any work of creation He knew any and all who profess the name of Jesus Christ, by name, BEFORE He ever brought anything into being.

Kenneth Wuest a Greek scholar and former teacher of Greek at Moody, writing on this says:
"We were chosen in eternity before the universe was formed. But wonder of wonders, this choice was never made. God cannot be said in the last analysis to decide upon any course of action. That choice is as eternal as God is. The name of every Christian is as eternal as God is, for God has had that individual in His heart for salvation as long as He (God) has been in existence. What a salvation, based upon an eternal choice, which extends through time, into, and throughout the eternity after times ceases. And then some dear children of God are afraid that after God has saved them, they can be lost."

This is an elaboration on what the Apostle John was inspired by God to write in his 1st letter, the 4th chapter and the 10th verse, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us."

Before we ever knew anything about God, in fact, before ever there was a world, or a thought about any of us, God knew us and prepared the way to Himself for us. Doesn't that give you a sense of awe, that The God, The Creator of all things loved you and knew you for centuries and centuries? It should and we should get down on our knees and give Him our endless praise and thanksgiving.

Which brings us to the one response that God wants from us in return. That response is one of surrender.

(Illustration of Sir Harry Lauder and receiving the news of his son's death)

Sir Harry Lauder, a Scottish singer and Christian of yesteryear was informed that his only son had been killed in World War I. He said to a friend, "When a man comes to a thing like this, there are just three ways out of it -- there is drink; there is despair, and there is God. By His grace, the last is for me."

^{what} This is ^{what} surrender to God is all about. How do we surrender to Him? Or perhaps we should ask "Have we ever surrendered to Him? We surrender to Him by acknowledging that He must be in control of our lives and we are willing to seek His will for our lives.

But does this mean that we always feel good about doing God's will? Of course we don't. How many times have we said, "I don't feel like praying, or going to church? How many times have we felt that perhaps God has deserted us? I'm sure that each of us, if we are honest can say that there have been moments when God didn't seem real or near. And if we think about this, we can easily determine that we are not alone in this struggle. Many of the strong servants of God have felt this way. Look at Moses as an example! When the children of Israel acted like little children and disobeyed God, what did Moses do? He became angry and he questioned why God ever put him in charge of these infants. He became so angry that he demanded that God take his life right then and there. Have you ever questioned God because He didn't seem to answer or reveal Himself? I believe all true believers have at one time or another. It was Alfred Lord Tennyson who said, "There ~~is more~~ lives more faith in honest doubt, Believe me, than in half the creeds." And what happened when you doubted God? At sometime in the near future He did something to make you aware that He was there all the time. What is the proof of this? Let me share with you something that we were involved in right here in our church. At the close of our last Council meeting, someone made the request that we pray for a woman who was having some real problems. We joined hands and closed our Council meeting by praying together for this woman. We didn't know what her problems were nor did we understand her immediate needs. But we prayed. And do you know what? God answered that prayer in several ways. Her son who had run away from home was found and returned to her and she is seeing that God does answer prayers where once she doubted. She made

the remark to one of our members that there is something different about her and she wants to have what this woman member has. And what is that? It is Jesus Christ in her heart who is evident in this member's life as she goes about her daily life. Is this something that only certain people can have? No! It is something that God wants for each of us. Surrender to God is what it takes, and surrender is what He wants. When we are willing to surrender completely to Him, then He is willing to live in us and be evident in our lives regardless of the circumstances.

(Illustration of Richard Wurmbrand and continued witnessing in spite of beatings)

How could these men do this? Was it because they are stronger than any of us? Is their faith that much better? No! The only answer is - GOD. Only a complete surrender to God is the answer. What is your answer to His call? Is it later? Or, "Some other time?" What path will we tread? God's or our own?

George MacDonald, a Scottish preacher wrote:

I said, "Let me walk in the field."

He said, "No; walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the skies are black,

There is nothing but noise and din."

And He wept as He sent me back,

"There is more," He said; "There is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick

And fogs are veiling the sun."

He answered, "Yet souls are sick,

And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "I shall miss the light

And friends will miss me, they say."

He answered, "Choose tonight

If I am to miss you, or they"

I pleaded for time to be given.

He said, "Is it hard to decide?"

It will not seem hard in heaven

To have followed the steps of your guide."

I cast one look at the fields,

Then set my face to the town;

He said; "My child, do you yield?

Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into His hand went mine;

And into my heart came He;

And I walk in a light Divine,

The path I had feared to see.

Are you "Loving The Lord" because you have completely surrendered to Him? If you haven't will you accept His invitation to come and follow Him?

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor October 30, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Lori Weisenstein and John Penrod
+ + + + +
*Result of prayer: We want to come away wanting nothing
but God"
+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Processional Hymn No. 9 "Teach Us What We Yet May Be"
*Ascription
*Exhortation
*Confession (In Unison) Merciful Father, we acknowledge
and confess our sinful nature; our shortcomings and
our offenses. We have betrayed not only our faith
in you, but also your faith in us. We have spoken
bravely of love and compassion, but we have acted
not out of love but of selfishness and indifference.
Forgive us, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Children's Moment
Hymn No. 607 "Where He Leads Me"
Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer
Offering
Offertory
*Doxology - page 382
Anthem: "I Want to be a Sheep/I've Been Redeemed/Our God
Scripture: Philippians 1: 1-11 Reigns"
Sermon: "Choices"
*Invitational Hymn No. 409 "Who Is On The Lord's Side?"
*Closing Hymns

*Benediction
*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mrs. Kathy Goda in honor of her mother Ethel Walrond.
Mrs. Catherine Johnston will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.
Serving as Ushers today are Marge Smiley, Lucille Tack,
Deb Melton and Genny Nohach.
Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 7 visitors.
Nursery will be provided by Mrs. Rhonda Vinroe.
Van Driver for November 6th will be Dick Dally.
Bonnie Gannon and Helen Riemer will be visiting the
hospital this week.

> Hospitalized:
RUMMAGE SALE hosted by the Activities Committee will be
held on November 4th & 5th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.
Please keep any saleable items for us until November
3rd. This is when you can bring in your items.
(10 to 2 and 6 to 8). All proceeds from this will go
into the Van Fund.

> ST. PAUL'S ALZHEIMERS CENTER - the little white envelopes
in the pews are for this. If you would like to contrib-
ute through the church, remember today is the last day.
After today all contributions should be mailed directly
to the center.

> ELECTION & ADOPTION OF 1989 BUDGET will be held on Novem-
ber 6th. Those nominated for Deacon are: Donley Martin,
LuAnn Janicki, Ray Isherwood, Bob Weisenstein, Don
Kingsley, Myra Colgate, Jim Gannon and Daryl Morrison.
Those nominated for Elder are: Rod Rensel, Paul
Riemer and Sandy Sheppeck.

Volunteers are needed to help the Salvation Army with its
Christmas drive. If you would like to donate some of
your time, call Mr. Carver at the Salvation Army.

Flowers are needed for the altar for November 13th. If
you would like to purchase them in memory of someone,
please let the office know.

> Reminder: Please return your talent sheets and pledge
cards to the office by November 20th.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept
Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek
counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

Community Bible Church - Sagamore, Pa. - November 1, 1992

Prelude
Greetings/Glory/Announcements/Prayer Requests

NOTE = CHOICES XPLAN
ANNUAL MEETING/DINNER = NOV 15

Ascription
Call to Worship:
THE LORD WHO HOLDETH ALL THAT FALL, AND RAISETH UP
ALL THOSE THAT BE BOWED DOWN.
THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS IN ALL HIS WAYS,
AND HOLY IN ALL HIS WORKS. PSALM 145:14, 17.

*Hymn
Offerings/Prayer
*Doxology
Pastoral Prayer
Hymn

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11
Sermon: "Choices" St. Paul's Butler, Pa. ~~October 30, 1992~~
10/30/88

*Hymn
*Benediction
*Postlude

FAMILY

SHAFER - MARRIED

MARRIAGE

MARRIAGE

LAIRO

SOMEONE ASKED A BLACK MINISTER ONCE WHAT THE WORD
"ELECTION" MEANT.

HE SAID, "BRETHREN, IT IS THIS WAY.

THE LORD IS ALWAYS VOTING FOR A MAN, AND THE DEVIL
HE IS ALWAYS VOTING AGAINST HIM.

THEN THE MAN VOTES, AND THAT BREAKS THE TIE."

(Ilus Tom Wilson, kid sidewalk Detroit)
(Ilus Black ministr & election=Th/L is always vote 4
th/man & Devil always vote agin him; then man him-
self votes & that breaks the tie)

vss 3-7=lettr aftr 10yrs & constan prayr 4them
-- 8=seat cmtion, affectin

9=dif tween choic adults/childrn, teens
(Ilus mothr 2boys & choic of cereal 4 brkfst)

(Ilus hi skul girl & obey parents)

vs 10A=Excellent choices - how mak them?
(Ilus man jump on ferry but it cum in 2dok)

Vs 10B-11=tru sincerity & glorify God
Sincerity=judg in sunlite

Eng deriv fr/Latin=without wax
(Ilus honey & sculpture)

(Ilus Livingstone & classmate in CS)
Josh declar: CHOOZ U THIS DAY WHOM U WIL SERV
AS FOR ME & MY HOUS, WE WIL SERV THE LORD

Whom wil U serv?
Whom wil U chooz?

"Choices"

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11

(Ilus Tom Wilson, motorcycle gang, killed on sidewalk Detroit)
How duz yng man fr/Ch, a Xpian get fr/Ch 2dy on bludied sidewalk
of big city?

ansr, painful, but obvius-it is matt'r of choices

We can pr & teach bout-Luv Th/Word, of of Luv Th/Lord, & giv all
th ansrs necessary 4 anyl's lif, but ult decis wat persn go 2do
w/his/her lif is matt'r of ther=CHOICES

Lif is mor than septanc of Xp, that is only Baining

It fr/then on that Choices Boun mor & mor import Bcuz then
we R 2B liv 4 th/Lord

(Ilus blak minstr & his fa definitin of Election)

That may notB th/way electin defin Theo, but it tru

Man maks th/choic wh/determ who he go 2foloin this ertly lif
that choic determ not only ertly lif, but his etrnl destiny
as wel

that why P had such strng desir 4 th/ch's he startd

Afr custmary greet fnd 1st 2-vss, P relat tru feelings 2ward

thez Xpian frends, P tels thmesvss 3-7

Imagin receiv ltr fr/suml afr bout 10yrs hav pas sinc last
saw, herd from, & read in all that tim, that persn has bin pray 'u

This pictur as thez peo in Philpi red thez membl words

Altho P in litrl chains in Romen prisen he tel thez peo he had

bin centinuly pray 4them

They had made choic of cum 2 Xp & start Ch wh/activ, flourish &

th/one who bin instru in fnd conf constant pray 4 them

vs 8=P try relat how strmply felt 2ward them & use languag of

that day wh/expres in intestins, bowels, it thot was seat of

emotins

th/word=Bowels tranlat actuly mean=affectin, thus mak mor mean

'ngful 4us

3=here P tel them wat his prayers had bin 4them

We say he pray 4thez Ch membra that ther luv 4 th/I may gro &

gro & that they may mak th/rite choices 4 ~~thexxixix~~ life

We liv in society deman constan choices 4us

4adults choices mayB sumwat easier, but 4 teenagrs & yng peopl

th/choices P not always that easy

th/reasen B, many voics hgt us fr/all sides mak selectin of

choices rathr dif 4thoz hav no exper w/many rts & wrongs

consequently hav probs of sex/drugs/dishonesty etc

that is why it incumbent upon thoz of us who kno bettr 2

steer our yng peopl 2 mak th/propr choices

2 relinq that duty as many parents & grwnups do is crimlnl

2say th/least, & certinly UnXpian

(Ilus mothr, 2 boys & choos brkfst cereal)

Our livs madeup choices & we mus determ th/rt choices G desir us

2mak

(Ilus high school girl & obey parents bout party)

Grudingly she made rt choic & then saw th/wisdom of ner
parents in refus 2let her go

wen we yngs we mus depend upon othrs older & wisr seeking 2

guid us in "Knowledge & in all judgment!"-vs 9B

wen we Boun of age we shud enuf comon sene 2mak th/propr choic

vs 10A=P sed he not only pray 4 peo in Ch in Phil 2gro in mor

kwledg & 2mak th/propr judgments, but he pray they mak th/rt

choices

This mean we not only mak choices, but thez choices R excelent,

& this mean they R th/very best we can mak

This taks discernment 2 chooz properly, & how do we mak thez

excelent choices?

(Ilus man wakup late, & jump on feary & discover in cuming in)

We mus anylz situ B4 we mak our choices

this avoid jump 2-~~xxxxxx~~ wrong concluzins

Vss 10B-11=wat decisins we mak in lif R 2B made in tru sincerty

& dun 2glorfy G

That shud mak us ask quest=R my decisins 4/th/events my lif,

seek 2giv glory 2-G?

Or do I mak decisins based on wat best 4 me?

I wud Bliev mos us mak decisins based on wat bes 4 me, wat we

deem in our bes intrests

Th/membra ch/Phil knu wat P was say bout sincerty Bcuz they ver

suroun by lot incincerty

Sincerty mean=judgd in th/sunlite

Engl word fr/Latin wh/mean=without wax

(Expl honey & ~~xxxxxxx~~ sculptur w/out wax=sincere)

So P say choices musE made in sincerty, w/out wax & thez cudB

held up 2sunlite 4inspectin

All of this if tru, wud seek 2 glorfy G

(Ilus Livingstone & classmate at funereal)

They both made ther choices

for God, the othr apin Him

Wat P th/choices we R seek 2mak?

Wil th/choices we decid on glorfy G?

Or wil they glorfy us?

Joshua declard wen ther was choic 4 a liftim 2B made=CHOYZ U THIS

DAY WHOM U WIL SERV:AS 4ME & MY HOUS WE WIL SERV THE LORD

Whom wil U serv?

Whom wil U chooz?

"Choices"

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11

(Illustration of Tom Wilson, member of motorcycle gang shot in Detroit)

His name was Tom Wilson. Tom was a member of the "Third Reich" a Neo-Nazi motorcycle gang in Detroit. He and his girlfriend had just parked their motorcycle in front of a drug store. A van drove by, slowed down, the window lowered, and a machinegun opened fire sending Tom's body sprawling on the sidewalk with eight bullets in him. He was just another victim of a gang war. Or was he?

The newspaper clipping had been placed on the desk of the Pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. The business manager of the church stepped into the Pastor's office and it was then that the mystery was unraveled for him. Tom's family had been pillars of that church. Tom had grown up attending church with them, had been baptized in the church, been a prominent member of the youth group, and a faithful member of the Sunday School.

But the question is, "How does a young man get from the church to dying on a bloodied sidewalk in the big city?" The answer is ~~harious~~ painful, but obvious. It is a matter of "Choices." We can preach and teach about "Loving The Word," or, "Loving The Lord," and give all of the answers necessary for anyone's life. But the ultimate decision of what a person is going to do with his or her life is a matter of their "Choices." Life is more than the acceptance of Christ. That is only the beginning. It is from then on that "Choices" become more important because we are then living for the Lord.

(Illustration of black minister and his definition of election)

Someone asked a black minister once what the word "election" meant. He said, "Brethren, it is this way. The Lord He is always voting for a man, and the devil he is always voting against him; then the man himself votes, and that breaks the tie."

That may not be the way Election is defined theologically, but it is true. Man makes the choice which determines who it is he is going to follow in this life. That choice determines not only his earthly life, but his eternal destiny as well. That is why Paul had such a strong desire for the churches that he had started.

After his customary greeting as found in the first two verses, Paul relates his true feelings toward these Christian friends. He tells them, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in ~~every~~ every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the Gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace." verses 3-7.

Imagine receiving a letter from someone after about 10 years have passed and reading that in all of that time that person has been praying for you. This is the picture as these people in the church in Philippi read these memorable words. Although Paul was literally in chains in a Roman prison he is telling these people that he has always been praying for them. They had made the Choice of coming to Christ and starting this church which was active and flourishing and the one who had been instrumental in founding that congregation was in constant prayer for them.

Paul trying to relate to them how strongly he felt toward them goes on to say, "For God is my record, how greatly I long after you in all the bowels of Jesus Christ."

Paul is using the language of that day in expressing his love for these people. It was believed that in the bowels, or the intestines that the seat of emotions was located. The word "bowels" could be translated "Affection," thus making it more meaningful for us.

It is then that Paul tells them what his prayers have been for them. He adds, "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgement."

He is saying that he is praying for these church members that their love for the Lord may grow and grow, but that they may make the proper "Choices," for life.

We live in a society that demands constant choices from us. For adults, the choices may be somewhat easier. But for children and teen-agers, and young people the choices are not always that easy. The reason being that many voices hit us from all sides making the selection of choices rather difficult for those that have no experience with many rights and wrongs. Consequently, we have the problems of drugs and sex, dishonesty and so on. That is why it is incumbent upon those of us who know better, to steer our young people to make the proper "Choices." To relinquish that duty as many parents and grownups do is criminal to say the least and certainly un-Christian.

(Illustration of mother, two boys and choosing the breakfast cereal)

There is a story of the mother who had two sons. One was two years older than the other and easily influenced by his pals. The older boy was in the fourth grade and the younger boy in second. The older boy had started running with some boys who were pretty wild for that age and he had picked up their rather rough language. The mother was trying to break him of swearing and she was nearing the end of her patience. So one morning the two boys sat down to breakfast and the mother asked the oldest boy what kind of cereal he wanted for breakfast. He answered by saying, "I'll take some of those blankety, blank crispy ~~xxxx~~ crunchêes," using swear words. At this the mother reached out and smacked him in the mouth knocking him and the chair over and on the floor. With that she looked at the younger boy and asked, "What kind of cereal do you want?" He said, "Well, I sure don't want any of those crispy crunchêes."

Our lives are made up of "Choices" and we must determine the right choices God desires us to make.

(Illustration of high school girl and obeying parents)

A minister tells of a high school girl coming to him one Sunday morning after church and telling him that ~~xxx~~ she thought her parents were too restrictive. There was a party being held at one of her friends houses the next Friday and they would not let her go. She said that all of her friends would be there. And she asked, "Don't they trust me? After all, I'm not a child anymore." The minister tried to tell her as lovingly as he could that she needed to obey her parents and he was not going to intercede for her. She walked away defeated and dejected.

The next Sunday she came to see him again and he asked, "Well, what did you do? Did you obey your parents, or did you sneak off to the party?" She answered brightly, "I listened to my parents, and I'm glad I did. Some of the people who went to that party brought drugs and the booze flowed freely. The party got very loud and the neighbors called the police and some of my friends were arrested."

Grudgingly she made the right choice and then saw the wisdom of her parents in refusing to let her go. When we are younger we must depend upon others older and wiser seeking to guide us in "Knowledge and in all judgement." When we become of age we should have enough common sense to make the proper "Choices."

Paul said that he was not only praying for the people in the church at Philippi to to grow in more knowledge and to make the proper judgements, but he was praying, "That ye may approve things that are excellent," verse 10A.

This means we not only must make "Choices," but that those "choices" are excellent and this means they are the very best "Choices" we can make. This takes discernment to choose properly. How do we make excellent "Choices?"

(Illustration of man waking up late and jumping on the ferry only to discover it was coming in and not going out).

We must analyse the situation before we make our "Choices." This avoids jumping to the wrong conclusions.

Paul stated why it was important that the very best, or "excellent" choices be made by adding "That ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." Verses 10B and 11.

What decisions we make in life are to be made in true sincerity and done to glorify God. That makes us ask the question, "Are my decisions for the events of my life seeking to give Glory to God? Or do I make decisions based on what is best for me?" I would believe that most of us make our decisions based on what we deem in our best interests. The members of the congregation at Philippi knew what Paul was saying about sincerity, because they were surrounded by a lot of insincerity. The word "sincerity" is from two words which actually mean, "Judged in the sunlight." ~~It was two words: illustration that wax was used for the purification of honey. Honey that had been processed properly had wax removed. We get our English word from the Latin derivative of the Greek which means "without wax."~~ Two instances of this have to do with honey and with statuary. Honey that was not properly refined would show cloudy when held up to sunlight thus showing that not all of the wax had been removed from it. By the same token statues or busts that were ordered by people many times were defective. In carving the statue or the bust, the sculptors chisel may have slipped and cut off the nose or an ear, or a finger. Instead of starting over on a new piece of marble or stone, an unscrupulous sculptor would form a new nose or ear, or finger out of wax. Unless the piece of sculpture was examined very closely, the deception was almost impossible to detect. But if the statue was taken in the direct sunlight, not only would the deception be revealed, but quite often the wax would melt thus proving the ~~the~~ attempt at deception by the sculptor. So Paul is saying that "Choices" must be made in sincerity, "Without wax," and these could be held up to the sunlight for inspection. All of this if true would seek to glorify God.

(Illustration of Livingstone and his classmate)

The funeral procession for David Livingstone was one of the greatest that London had ever seen. The streets were lined with people paying homage to this great man of God who gave his life to serve God in Africa. In that crowd of people there was a shabbily dressed bum who pushed his way to the front of the crowd that lined the sidewalk. He was pushed back by the crowd who resented his intrusion. But as he pushed back time after time, and he continued to try to get to the front he cried out, "I have a right to see David Livingstone. I know him better than any of you. We were in Sunday School together. He decided for Christ; I decided against Him."

They both made their "Choices". One for God, one against Him. What are the "Choices" we are seeking to make? Will the "Choices" we decide on glorify God? Or will they glorify us?

Joshua declared when there was a choice for a lifetime to be made, "Chose you this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Whom will you serve? Whom will you choose?

Before Church, talk to God
During Church, let God talk to you
After Church, talk to others.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor November 6, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Nicole Morrison and Mike Brinker

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 454 "Trust and Obey"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Almighty God, who is rich in mercy to all who call to you: hear us as we humbly confess our sin and implore your forgiveness. We have broken your laws by our deeds and words. We confess our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and selfishness, and all of our failures and shortcomings toward you and our fellow man. Have mercy on us Father, that we may enjoy newness of life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Hymn No. 469 "Higher Ground"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Benediction - page 382

Anthem: "I Got A Robe"

Scripture: Matthew 6: 19-21

Sermon: "Pre-Arrangement"

*Invitation Hymn No. 497 "Like a River Glorious"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

***** *Congregation Standing *****

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Dorothy, Irene and Paul Forcht in memory of their Mother.

Mr. & Mrs. George Pflugh will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Serving as Ushers today are Marty Henry, John Snow, Jeff Snyder and Frank Crawford.

Attendance last Sunday was 136 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Pam Tait.

Van driver for November 13th will be Ken Draxinger.

Marge Smiley and Shirley Thompson will be visiting the hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Bill Winters in BMH.

> Immediately following the service today we will meet in Rehearsal Hall for our Election, Adoption of the Budget, and discussion regarding the purchase of a Van. We hope you will make every effort to be there! PRAY - NOT P.R. C. MESS

TALENT SHEETS AND PLEDGE CARDS are due in this month.

Please fill them out and return them to the office or drop them in the offering plate. We need these to set up our committees and workers for next year. Every one has a talent, so lets use them by signing up now.

Date they are due back is November 20th.

> CHRISTMAS CANTATA is now in progress. However, we are looking for a few more voices to add. Please come and join us at 8:00 P.M. on Thursdays and join in our way of sending a Christmas message.

> SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS are scheduled to have a teachers meeting on Tuesday evening at 7 P.M. Please be there! We need your help with the Christmas program. OTHER! ALJS

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

Community Bible Church - Sagamore, Pa. 11/8/92

Prelude

Greetings/Joys/Announcements/Prayer Requests

Annual congregational meeting w/dinner after church 11/15

Ascription

Call to Worship:

THE LORD IS HIGH UNTO ALL THEM THAT CALL UPON HIM,
TO ALL THAT CALL UPON HIM IN TRUTH.

HE WILL FULFILL THE DESIRE OF THEM THAT FEAR HIM:
HE ALSO WILL HEAR THEIR CRY AND SAVE THEM. PS. 145:18-19

*Hymn

Offering/Prayer

*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21

Sermon: "Pre-Arrangement" St. Paul's Butler - 11/6/88

*Benediction

*Postlude

LARA

JEAN

COLA

"Pre-Arrangement"

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21

(Illustration preacher read humorus news story in strng twn)

It amt 2mattr of perspectiv;wat acptbl 1 plac is unacptbl nothr
wat funy 1 plac,not funy nothr & gud exampl perspectiv fnd dif
societys=(Jlus Dr. Stowell & fat womn Africa)

W C it all mattr perspectiv & as mod day Americans we sweat,diet
& all sorta things 2get trim

2thoz peo=Fat Is wher Its At,& 4us Thin Is In

4Xpians it much sam way,we liv in worl whos values P def dif
fr/out

We B peo of sprecil kingdm & that why P inspir 2writ=Col 1:13
G HATH DELIVRD US FR/TH/POWR OF DARKNES,& HATH TRNALATD US IN2
TH/KINGDM OF HIS DEAR SON

that mean we liv in uniu way & means we R aliens in foreign lan
At His trial Js sed=MY KINGDM IS NOT OF THIS WORL

our unigu postin is that we P membre of that kingdm,but whil we
liv here on erth we R subj 2th/stres & strain of mak liv,rais
our famlys,& keep on liv this lif,whil seek 2liv 4th/L as wel
Th/peo who suroun Js wen He spok 2them in wat Cal=Serm Mt,
wer peo exactly like U & I

They wer nervus bout lif;they had cares/concerns 4ther famlys
& frends;& they anxius bout liv lif

Go Js sed 2them=READ vss 25-34

brokn dwn 2its simples form Js say our live R 2B liv promot the
kingdm of Xp & participat in it whil liv

So wat duz means=Seek 1st Kingdm of G?

we need 2work 2ern liv;we need transportatin;we need fud &
cloth,a hous & all th/things this lif

How do we put all in propr perspectiv?

Th/ ansr lys in that wh/red as Scrip this morn=Read vss 19-21
fr/thez ther R 2quests we mus deal with:

1st What R treasurs in hvn?

& simples ansr is they R things dun on erth that wil hav impac
on eternaty

SECONDO=How do I establish treasurs in hvn?

Duz this mean I mus scrap evrth this lif,or lead sum sort monast
lif? w/out worlds guds?

No G duznt requir that;Js taut us we had 2liv in th/worl,but
that we shud not B W OF th/worl

quit simply this mean,that of necesty we mus liv norml earthly
lif but that lif not 2B liv as tho this earthly lif wil go on
4evr here

So how do we lay up treasurs in hvn?

How do we send them on ahead or mak=Pre-Arrangements?

TIME: This is nuth in lif quit as valubl as time

We can spend time in worthwhil things or we can wast time endles

We can inves our time in livs othr peo & seek 2pt them 2th/L
by giv of ourselvs

But how many us wen ask 2giv of our time w/in th/Ch respond with=

I'm too busy, I don't have time.
 Wat wil we anser th/L wen He asks="Wat did U do w/all th/time
 I gav U on erth?"
 CHILDREN: I mos precious asets R th/childrn G has givn us
 Now I kno ther R thoz who can ritly say, I no hav childrn
 But wat R U do w/childrn of others?
 G it incumbnt on ea us 2B concern & care bout ALL childrn
 R . giv time 2help prpe childrn 4lif in th/worl?
 P we involv in SS? If not, why not?
 R we seek 2 pt childrn 2fulfill Xpian servic 4 th/L?
 Or R we seek 2hav our childrn folo th/career we feel they shud
 folo?
 Ther 3 many gift childrn who wil simply drift in? secular emple
 aftr colow or hi skul 2mak liv wen hav talents/gifts wh/G has
 givn 2them wh/cudB use 4 G's kingdm
 that duznt mean all childrn shud go in? Xpian work, but 2tak job
 in steel mill/bank/busnes ofic shudB as much a cal 4anyone as
 th/cal 2B minstr, missionary, or Xpian Ed workr
 Is th/plac of emply, or skul 2wh/U R direc childrn, th/plac wher
 G wud hav them?
 MONEY: if we R hones we mus admit mony play import rol in all our
 livs
 We simply cannot exis w/out it
 G no ask us 2mak selvs destitut, but lets B hones
 How many of us R actuly giv sacrificilly 4 G's kingdm?
 How many us r mor concern tak care our comfs insted of seek 2
 giv as G ~~xxxxxx~~ has prosperd us?
 Now much our mony Blong 2-God? ALL OF IT is anser
 Ther 4 Blong 2Him, & we ought 2B use 4 Him & His kingdm as He direc
 Do we ask G wat He wud hav us do 2ward this end? ~~xxxxxx~~
 Or do we decid 4 Him?
 TENTS: G creat ea us w/cert talents/gifts/abiltys wh/R ult ours
 us has cert gifts wh/shudB usd 4th/advancmen G's kingdm
 Ea cong is a flock, lik sheep
 U R my flock wh/G entrus 2my care & keep; As I lk at our sheep I
 C all kinds; sum our sheep R wil 2giv of time/talent 2serv othr sh
 sheep of flock
 sum our sheep R very selfish & tak all they can fr/th/Ch & giv
 littl if nuth bak: sum sheep dont evn bothr shoup 4feed time
 they get ther feed fr/many othr places, but not here, wher th/Hed
 Shepherd wants them 2B fed from
 Then ther R sheep who hav nevrr determ wat ther rol in fold shudB
 I truly luv my flock: U R my famly, U R my frends; I luv ea one of
 U dearlv, but it grieves me deeply that sum of U wil not get invol
 in th/work of this flock
 If all of ur wud use jus one gift G has givn us we cud accomplish
 so much mor 4 G's kingdm
 Wat kind of Pre-Arangmen P we making 4 eternty? is wat we mus
 ea ask ourselvs

(Ilus preachr R =NORMAL BOY MARRYS OBLONG GIRL)
 (Ilus Dr. ~~xxxxxx~~-Timbuktu, Afr & fat womn)
 IF UR WIF IS ON CAME & CAME CANNOT STANDUP, UR WIF IS
 BUTIFUL
 Col 1:13=G HATH DELIVRD US FR/TH/POWER OF DARKNES, &
 HATH TRANSLATD US IN 2 TR/TH/POWER OF HIS DEAR SON
 a. .rail Je sed=MY KINGDM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD
 vs 25-24=WAT MEAN SEEK KINGDM OF G?
 vs 19-21
 2 quests:
 WAT R TREASURS IN HVN?
 HOW DO I ESTABLISH TREASUR IN HVN?
 TIME
 Children
 Money
 Talents
 (Exempl of flock & sheep entrust 2 me)
 2things wh/wil las 4ever:
 Mt 5:17-18- word of God
 Church-on this rok I wil bld my Ch, & gates hell
 wil not prevail against it - Ch=People
 W of G & people
 (Ilus Padrewski encouargg yng boy at piano)
 R U MAK PRE-ARANGMEN?
 WHER IS UR TREASUR?

Ther R 2 things wh/wil las 4evr, thez 2things R wat Js taut His
followers that wer of importanc 2 Him

In th/Serm on Mt tol thoz peo assembl in Mt 5:17-18=READ THIS

Th/1st thing wh/wil las 4evr is=TH/WORD OF GOD

R we inves our time wisely in seek 2lern wat G's Word tel us 4
send ahead our treasures?

Second thing last 4evr was spokn of by Js B4 ascend in2 hvn
He sed=UPON THIS ROK I WIL BILD MY CH,& TH/GATES OF HELL SHAL
NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT

Wat is th/Ch? It is people - People who R liv 4Him

2things only that wil last 4evr=G's Word & People

R we invest our livs in them?

(Ilus Padrewski encourag yng boy at piano)

In our livs it is Mastr who suroun us & whispr our ears=Dont quit
keep playing

& as He ad 2our serv he encourag us 2continu play piano of lif

Note by note He ad 2our livs & suplements thez livs w/His hvnly
music

A th/whil we play we R add 2musicl scor wh/our treasur that we
R send on ahead

& wen scor is complet,& He cal us home,we can hear His whisprd

"WEL DUN"

R U mak Pre-arrangments in hvn?

Wher is Ur treasur?

"Pre-Arrangement"

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21

(Illustration of preacher reading humorous news stories in strange towns)

The newspaper headline ~~read~~ on the society page read, "Normal boy marries oblong girl." When the visiting preacher read that from the pulpit there was no reaction from the congregation because to them it wasn't funny.

This minister would buy the Saturday evening paper in any town where he was preaching the next day. He was aware that if there was a local disaster, the mood of the people would be different than if the local high school was playing in the football or basketball play-offs. So he looked for something humorous to use and when he was in Bloomington, Illinois this was one of the headlines. There are two towns near Bloomington named Normal and Oblong which struck him as funny. So he quoted that, but received no reaction because to the people in that congregation those towns are a part of their local language and they couldn't see the humor in it.

It amounts to a matter of perspective. What is acceptable in one place is unacceptable in another; or what is funny in one area is not in another. A good example is the perspective to be found in different societies.

(Illustration of Dr. Stowell in Timbuktu, Africa and fat women)

A minister tells of visiting the mission field in Timbuktu, Africa. In that particular area and culture the larger the women are, the more beautiful they are thought to be. One particular missionary had a very small and thin wife. The local nationals there told him she was a bad reflection on him- that he was obviously was not providing well enough for her.

There is a proverb in that part of Africa which says that if your wife is on a camel and the camel cannot stand up, your wife is beautiful.

You see, it's all a matter of perspective. As modern day Americans we sweat and diet and do all sorts of things to get trim. To those people, fat is where it's at, while for us thin is in. For Christians, it is much the same way. We live in a world whose values are definitely different from ours. We are people of a special kingdom. That is why Paul was inspired by God to write in Colossians 1:13, "(God) hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son."

That means we live in a unique way and that means we are like aliens in a foreign land.

At His trial Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." Our unique position is that we are members of that kingdom, but while we live here on earth we are subject to the stress and strain of making a living, raising our families, and keeping on living this life, while seeking to live for the Lord as well.

The people who surrounded Jesus when He spoke to them in what we call "The Sermon on the Mount" were people exactly like you and I. They were nervous about life; they had cares and concerns for their families and their friends; and they were anxious about living life. So it was that Jesus said to them, (read verses 25-34). Broken down to its simplest form Jesus is saying that our lives are to be lived promoting the kingdom of Christ and participating in it while we live. So what does it mean to "seek first the kingdom?" We need to work to earn a living; we need to have transportation; we need food and clothing, a house and all of the things of this life. How do we put all of this in proper perspective? The answer lies in that which we read as our Scripture for this morning. (Read verses 19-21). From this there are two questions we must deal with. The first question is, "What are treasures in heaven?" The simplest answer is that they are things done on earth that will have an impact on eternity. The second question is, "How do I establish treasures in heaven?"

Does this mean that I must scrap everything in this life, or lead some sort of monastic life without anything of this world's goods? No, God doesn't require that. Jesus taught us that we had to live in the world but that we should not be OF the world. Quite simply, this means that of necessity we must live a normal earthly life, but that life is not to be lived as though our earthly existence will go on forever here. So how do we lay up treasures in heaven? How do we send them on ahead, or make those "Pre-Arrangements?"

Time. There is nothing in life quite as valuable as time. We can spend time in worthwhile things or we can waste time endlessly. We can invest our time in the lives of other people and seek to point them to the Lord by giving of ourselves. How many of us when we are asked to give of our time within the church respond with, "I'm too busy, I don't have time?" What will we answer the Lord when He asks? What did you do for Me with all the time I gave you on earth?"

Children. One of the most precious assets are the children God has given us. Now I know ~~xxx~~ there are some who can rightly say, "I don't have any children." But what are you doing for the children of others? You see, it is incumbent upon each of us to be concerned and caring about ALL children. Are we giving our time to help prepare our children for life in the world? Are we involved in Sunday School, and if not, why not? Are we seeking to point children toward fulltime service for the Lord? Or are we seeking to have our children follow the career we feel they should follow? There are many gifted children now who will simply drift into secular employment after college or high school to make a living when they have talents and gifts which God has given to them which could be used for God's kingdom. That doesn't mean that all children are required to go into Christian work. But ~~xxxxxx~~ taking a job in the steel mill, or the bank, or the business office should be as much a call for anyone as the call to ministry or missionary, or Christian education work is. Is the place of employment, or the school to which you are directing children the place where God would have them?

Money. If we are honest, we must admit that money plays an important role in all of our lives. We simply cannot exist without it. God is not asking us to make ourselves destitute. But let's be honest! How many of us are actually giving sacrificially for God's kingdom? How many of us are more concerned with taking care of our comforts instead of seeking to give as God has prospered us? How much of our money belongs to God? ALL OF IT! Therefore it belongs to Him, and we ought to be using it for Him and His kingdom as He directs. Do we ask God what He would have us do toward this end? Or do we decide for Him?

Talents. God has created each of us with certain talents and abilities which are uniquely ours. Each of us has certain gifts which should be used for the advancement of God's kingdom. Each congregation is a flock, like sheep. You are my flock which God has entrusted to my care and keeping. As I look at our sheep I see all kinds. Some of our sheep are very willing to give of their time and talents to serve the other sheep; some of our sheep are very selfish and take all they can from the church and give little if nothing back; some sheep don't even bother to show up for feeding time in Sunday, they get their feed from many other places, than from where the Head Shepherd wants them to get it; and then there are sheep who have never determined what their role should be within the fold. I truly love

my flock, You are my family, you are my firends. I love each of you dearly, but it grieves me that some of you will not get involved in the work of this flock. If all of us would use just one of the gifts God has given us, we could accomplish so much more for God's kingdom.

What kind of "Pre-Arrangements" are we making for eternity?, we must each ask ourselves.

~~There are two things which will last forever. These two things are what Jesus taught His followers that were of importance to Him.~~

~~In this Sermon on the Mount Jesus told those people as recorded in the 5th chapter the 17th and 18th verses, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."~~

~~The first thing that will last forever is the Word of God. Are we investing our time wisely in seeking to learn what God's Word tells us for sending ahead our treasures?~~

~~Shortly before Jesus ascended into heaven He told them, "Upon this rock," (meaning Himself) I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."~~

~~What is the Church? It is people: People who are living for Him.~~

~~Two things only will last forever, God's Word, and people. Are we investing our lives in them?~~

(Illustration of Paderewski encouraging young boy at piano)

In our lives it is the Master who surrounds us and whispers in our ear, "Don't quit -- keep playing." And as we do He adds to our service and encourages us to keep on playing the piano of life. Note by note He adds to our lives and supplements our lives with His heavenly music. All the while we are playing, we are adding to the musical score which is our treasure that we are sending on ahead. And when the score is completed and He calls us home, we can hear His whispered, "Well done!"

Are you making "Pre-aRrangements" in heaven? Where is your treasure?

"Prayer is: a shield for the soul
a sacrifice to God
a scourge for Satan."

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor November 13, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Mike Brinker and Nicole Morrison

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 338 "We Sing the Greatness of Our

*Ascription God"

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) We confess, Lord, that we have
not loved you or our neighbors as we ought. We have
often neglected opportunities for good; sometimes
we have done actual harm. Our consciences accuse
us over trifles, but let us stay blind to your more
weightier demands. We know that a mere apology will
not do. We resolve to turn from the sins we know,
we ask you to show us the sins we do not recognize.
We beg your pardon and ask your help, through your
Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Moment

Hymn No. 476 "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 182

Antiphon: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus!"

Scripture: John 7: 37-44

Sermon: "Inside Our Application"

*Invitational Hymn No. 617 "Onward Christian Soldiers"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

***** *Congregation Standing *****

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mrs. Lois Wogan Stokes and family in memory of
Earl Wogan.

Kelly Mangel and Lori Weisenstein will greet our members
and guests at the door this morning.

Visiting today are Alta Kradel, Lois Stokes, Marilyn
Snyder and Dutch Bolam.

Attendance last Sunday was 134 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Lucille Tack.

Van driver for November 20th will be Dick Mangel.

Hill Pflugh and Paul Campbell will be visiting the
hospital this week.

*Hospitalized: Bill Winters in BMW

*Talent Sheets and Pledge Cards are to be turned in by
November 20th. Please take a minute and fill them in
and return them. If you do not have one, please stop
in the office after church to get one. These are very
important when setting up the committees for 1989.

*Choir: PMA Practice is set for 6:30 on Wednesday.
We would like you to make every effort to be there for
these practices. This is the Sunday School children's
program which will be held on December 11th.

*The Choir of this church will be participating in a
Prayer & Praise Festival on Tuesday evening at 7:30 P.M.
at Community Alliance Church on Mercer Road. We hope
that you will make plans to come and join us in support.
This is open to the public.

We received a letter from Mrs. Bancroft. She is doing
better and getting stronger. She would like to express
her sincere thanks for all of the cards, prayers, and
get well wishes. She looks forward to hearing from her
friends here at St. Paul's, so keep them letters going.

*POINSETTIAS for Christmas will be \$6.10 each this year.
If you would like to purchase one and have it in the
church for December 18th and 25th, please let the office
know. They will grace our chancel for the Cantata,
Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday.

At the close of the service we sing an invitational hymn.
This invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond
to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives
the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, to pray, to
meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will
assist you if you desire.

Community Bible Church - Sagamore, Pa. November 15, 1992

Prelude

Greetings/Joys/Announcements/Prayer Requests

Ascription

Call to Worship:

PRAISE YE THE LORD! HAPPY IS HE THAT HATH THE GOD OF JACOB
FOR HIS HELP, WHOSE HOPE IS IN THE LORD HIS GOD:
WHICH MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL THAT THEREIN
IS: WHICH KEEPETH TRUTH FOREVER:
WHICH EXERCISETH JUDGEMENTS FOR THE OPPRESSED: WHICH GIVETH
FOOD TO THE HUNGRY.
THE LORD LOOSETH THE PRISONERS: THE LORD OPENETH THE EYES
OF THE BLIND: THE LORD RAISETH THEM THAT ARE BOWED DOWN:
THE LORD LOVETH THE RIGHTEOUS: THE LORD PRESERVETH THE
FATHERLESS AND WIDOW: BUT THE WAY OF THE WICKED HE
TURNETH UPSIDE DOWN.
THE LORD SHALL BEIGN FOREVER. PRAISE YE THE LORD!

*Hymn

Offering/Prayer

*Exhortory

*Loral Prayer

*Hymn

Scripture: John 7:37-44

Sermon: "Inside Out Application" ST PAUL'S BIBLE 11/13/92

*Hymn

*Benediction

*Postlude

FLSIE
JEFF FAMILY

(Ilus littl boy & describ parts of body) JN 7:37-79
A SMAL BOY WAS ASKT 2WRIT WAT HE HAD LERND ABOUT TH/HUMN BODY
IN HYGENE CLAS. SO HE SAT DWN & WROTE:
OUR BODY IS DIVIDED IN 2 - 3PARTS: THE BRAINIUM, THE BORAX &
THE ABOINABL CAVITY.

TH/BPAINIUM CONTAINS TH/BRAIN, IF ANY.

TH/BORAX CONTAINS TH/LUNGS, LIGHTS, & HART.

TH/ABOINABL CAVITY CONTAINS TH/BOWELS OF WH/THIER R 5.

A, E, I, O, & U. (JN 7:37-79) OF TH/TH-2RD OCT 13-21

ISA 12:3=THIER W/JOY SHAL YE DRAW WATR OUT OF TH/WELS OF SALVATTI

THIRST=YERN4 THAT WH/WIL SATISFY TH/SCUL.

DRINK=RECEIV SPIRITULY THAT WH/REFRESHES, STNGTHNS, & NOERISHES
TH/SCUL

ISA 44:3=FOR I WIL POUR WATR UPON HIM THAT IS THIRSTY, & FLUDS
UPON TH/DRY GRND: I WIL POUF MY SPIRIT UPON THY SEED, & MY
BLESSING UPON THINE OFFSPRING.

ISA 55:1=HO, EVRONE WHO THIRSTS, CUM 2 TH/WATRS.

ISA 58:11=TH/LRD WIL CONTINLY GUID U & SATISFY UR DESIR IN
SCORCHED PLACES, & GIV STNGTH 2UR BONES: & U WILB LIK A WATRD
GARDN, & LIK A SPRING OF WATR WHOS WATRS DO NOT FAIL.

MT 5:17-18 - READ - WORD OF GCD

Declaratin that Js is Xn-UPON THIS RCK I WIL BILD MY CH, & THE
GATES OF HEL SHAL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT. MT 16:

Ch is - People SAWUP POLL & NO EVIDENCE

(Ilus Dwight L. Moody & quote in 1887 bout Xpians)

'WHY I MAY SAY W/TRUTH, THAT THER IS ONLY ABOUT ONE IN 10, WHO
PROFES XPIANTY, WHO WIL TURN ARND & GLORFY G W/A LOUD VOICE.

9 OUT OF 10 R STILBORN XPIANC. U NEVR HEAR OF THEM. IF U PRES
THEM HART W/TH QUESTIN WHETHER THEY R XFIANS, THEY MITE SAY,
'TH, I HOPE SO.' WE NEVP C IT IN THER ACTINS: WE NEVP C IT IN
THEIR LIVES.

(ILUS OF POOR BOY, RICH GIRL & GOLDN WINDOWS OF HER HOME)

(ILUS KEITH GREEN & SONG)

MY EYES ARE DRY,

MY FAITH IS OLD,

MY HEART IS HARD,

MY PRAYERS ARE COLD,

AND YOU KNOW HOW I OUGHT TO BE,
ALIVE TO YOU AND DEAD TO ME.

OH, WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR AN OLD HEART LIKE MINE?
SOFTEN IT UP WITH OIL AND WINF.

THE OIL IS YOU,

YOUR SPIRIT OF LOVE,

PLEASE WASH ME ANEW IN THE WINE OF YOUR LOVE.

LET TH/DR WATRS FLOW FR. THY DAY BECZ WE HAV
RND OUR TRIP 2 TH/L & HE HAD TAKN CARE OF THEM
THRU 3 LLS.

But bak wen Js was walk th/erth, men argu ovr who He was
 Ther cums pt wher Js eithr acpt or rejectd
 if He rejectd that persn has made his choic & his lif is his
 responsibilty
 but if persn has acpt Xp that choic requirs th/evidenc of ~~thx~~
 that acptanc

Th persn lif shud reflec wat we mite cal th=Inside Out Applica
 t. means that fr wthin that persn shud cum 4th evidenc of
 who it is we Bliev in & who it is we R wil 2serv as liv live
 We spok las wk of lay up treasures in hvn, along what line we need
 2R awar that as we seek 2liv our lives, ther R only 2things wh/wil
 last 4ever

We n J
 wen Js was teach=Sermon on Mt in Mt 5:17-18 we read=READ
 He say one think wh/wil las 4ever is G's Word
 shortly B4 Mt=Jhs spk 2discipls bout self & wen Petr sed
 Js was th/Xp, Js sed=UPON THIS ROK I WIL BILD MY CH, & TH GATES
 OF HELL SHAL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT
 Wat is th/Ch made up of? PEOPLE

it is peo who R th/ 2nd thing that wil last 4ever
 Th/Word of G, & People R th/2 eternal things & thez R wher we shud
 R invs our lives

How R we mak th/Insid ~~Out~~ Out Applicatin? Is ther evidenc cum
 fr/ our livs that ther is sumth w/in wh/being aply 2our livs?
 Galup poll sevrl yrs ago identfy lrg maj citizns say they R
 Xpians

but one wondrs if this tru wen C evidenc of Xpian Ch lak influ
 in our society & we hear of disentin & fite ovr Bibl & Xpianity
 (Ilus Dwight L. Moody & quote in 1880 bout Xpians)
 Sadly, 1 hundred yrs latr th/same cadB sed bout Ch scene 2day

wat do othr peo G wen they lk at us?
 (The poor litl boy & mansin, rich girl & windows of gold)
 Un th/lite of th/sun both houses wer th/same

Undr th/lite of G's Son Js, wat is shin out of our harts?
 th/cal of th/Sav is stil and 4th this very day-IF ANY MAN
 THIRST LET HIM CUM UNTO ME AND DRINK. HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME
 AS TH/SCRIPTUR HATH SED, OUT OF HIS BELLY SHAL FLC RIVERS OF
 LIVING WATER * vs 37-38

Js shudB pouring out of us, but perhaps we need 2-1st pour our-
 selves out 2 Him
 (Ilus Keith Green & a song he sings)

Let th/living watr flo fr/us this day Bcu we hav brot our
 thirst 2 th/L & He has takn care of our thirst thru Nimsel

"Inside Out Application"

Scripture: John 7:17-44
 (Ilus of litl boy & descrip of humn body)
 Th/boy of cors was confusd bout few things
 it was at th/clon of anul feast of Tabs in 3rd yr of Js minstry
 that He made proclam wh/struk hope/joy in? harts of folowrs
 his sam mesag caus confus 2feign among othrs who no Bliev
 this was th/ptomis One fr/G

this Feast of Tabs was 3rd & las feast 2R held ea yr
 it also cal=Feast of Ingathering Bcu held tween 15 & 21 of Oct
 & signfy harv of grain/grapes/fruts & olivs
 th/feast last 4 -7days & on 7th day booths dismantld & a Sab
 observ was held on 8th day

ea of 7days of feast th/worships cam 2 temp w/branchs palm/willo
 they form procesin 2 pool of Siloam S of Jeru & ther at pool
 a pr tuk goldn pitchr & fil w/watr
 w/joy/sing return 2 temp & pr pour watr on altr whil peo march
 rnd altr waw branch & sing - ISA 12:3

Jn tel us=vs 37-Js exten invit 2thoz who seek salv 2cum 2Him
 Thirst in Grk=mean sp thirst, a yern 4 that wh/wil satisfy soul
 Drink in Grk=mean receiv sp that wh/refreshes, strngthns, & nour-
 ishes th/soul

So pur 2words 2gethr=thirst/drink=Js say thoz who R lk 4spirtul
 things can satisfy thirsty crav of soul can find in Him
 this quite statemen & His hearrs wer made up of peo who wer lk
 4/th/One G was go 2send 2reliev ther hungrr & thirst 4things of
 God

vs 38=it uncert wat Scrin Js refer 2, but may hav bin fr/prophs
 of Isa that he recal=Isa 44:3, Isa 55:1, Isa 58:11

In ea thez G prom 2tak care th/spir thirst that seekra hav
 Th/Prom One of G was 2bring redem/releas 4all ~~xxx~~ any & all who
 wu Bliev in Him

H e was Js ask thez neo 2Bliev in Him as Scrips pt Him out &
 fr/ther livs, fr/ther very inrmos B wud cum 4th pruf of this
 fr/anyl cum 2 Xp & acpt Him as L & Sav, Js is say this choic
 wudB seen & noticed

That evidenc wud cum fr/within, it wudB fr/th/insid out
 4t this pt Jn ad slite editorial coment=vs 39
 Jn was spk bout evidenc wh/wudB seen in Blievrs lif w/cum of
 H Sp in that persns lif

But Jn was also witnes 2th/powr of th/H Sp at Pentecost & he
 knu wat Js was talk bout wen He sed this
 So Jn writ this long afr Js sed, can add this ed coment bout
 wat th/indwel of H Sp cud do in persns lif

vas 40-44=this is result of teach of Js on certin peo
 this passag thus closes on tragic note

a grt sp exper had takn plac, G had reveal self thru Js & cert
 peo wantd 2start argu who He really was
 this is sad; we may Bliev we liv in th/only age that has evr
 exper widespred sp/unbelief

"Inside Out Appliaation"

Scripture: J hn 7:37-44

(Illustration of little boy and his description of the human body)

A small boy was asked to write what he had learned ~~ix~~ about the human body in hygiene class. So he sat down and wrote:

Our body is divided into three parts - the brainium, the borax, and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, if any. The borax contains the lungs, lights, and heart. The abominable cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five, - A, E, I, O, and U.

The boy of course was confused about a few things. It was at the close of the annual Feast of Tabernacles in the third year of Jesus' ministry that He made a proclamation which struck hope and joy into the hearts of ~~Wixxxxxxxx~~ those who were followers of Him, and that same message caused confusion to reign among others who did not believe that this was the promised One of God.

This Feast of Tabernacles was the third ~~if~~ and last feast to be held each year. It was also called "The Feast of the Ingathering," because it was held between the 15th and the 21st of October and signified the harvest of grain, and grapes, and ~~elixxxx~~ fruits and olives.

The Feast lasted for 7 days and on the 7th day the booths or tabernacles were dismantled and a Sabbath observance was held. On each of the seven days of the feast the worshipers came to the temple with branches of palm, or willow. They formed a procession to the Pool of Siloam south of the temple in Jerusalem. There at the pool, ~~xxx~~ a priest took a golden pitcher and filled it with water. So with joy and singing the procession returned to the temple and the priest poured the water on the altar while the people marched around the altar waving their branches and singing. A part of what they sung was the 3rd verse of Isaiah which reads, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." ~~Thxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Thus we read, "In the last day, that great day of the feast." It was the 8th day, the water was poured from the golden pitcher on the altar, and the people were singing, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation," and John tells us, "Jesus stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink."

Jesus extends the invitation to those who seek salvation to come to Him. The word ~~thirst~~ "Thirst" in Greek ~~ix~~ has the meaning of a spiritual thirst, a yearning for that which will satisfy the soul. The word "Drink" in Greek means "receiving ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ spiritually that which refreshes, strengthens, and nourishes the soul." So putting the two words together, "Thirst," and "drink," Jesus is saying that those who are looking for the spiritual things that can satisfy the thirsty craving of the soul can be found in Him. This is quite a statement and His hearers were made ~~if~~ up of people who were looking for the One God was going to send them to relieve their hungering and thirsting for the things of God.

Jesus then goes on to say, "He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." verse 38.

It is uncertain to which Scripture Jesus is referring, but it may have been from the prophesies of Isaiih that He was recalling. In Isaiah 44:3 we read, "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thine offspring."

In Isaiah 55:1, God says, "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters." And in Isaiah 58:11, God says, "And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail."

In each of these God is promising to take care of the spiritual thirst that seekers of Him have. The promised One of God ~~xxxxx~~ was promised in Scripture to bring redemption and release for all and all who would believe in Him. Here was Jesus asking these people to believe in Him as the Scriptures pointed Him out and from their lives, ~~xxxxx~~ from their very innermost beings would come forth ^{PROOF OF THIS} A From anyone coming to Christ and accepting Him as Lord and Savior, Jesus is saying this choice would be seen and noticed. That evidence would come from within, it would be from the "Inside Out."

It is at this point that the Apostle John adds a slight editorial comment, (read verse 39). John was ~~saying~~ speaking about the evidence which would be seen in the believers life with the coming of the Holy Spirit in that person's life. But John also was witness to the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and he knew what Jesus was talking about. He also knew what the indwelling of the Holy Spirit could do in a person's life, so he saw fit to share his editorial comment for all future believers.

It is then that John shares with us the results of the teaching here of Jesus on certain people, (read verses 40 through 44). This passage closes on a tragic note. A great spiritual experience had taken place, God had revealed Himself through Jesus, and certain people wanted to start arguing about who He really was. This is sad. We may believe that we live in the only age ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ that has ever experienced spiritual unbelief. But back when Jesus Himself was walking the earth, men were arguing over who He was. There comes a point where Jesus is either accepted or rejected. If He is rejected then that person has made his choice and his life is his responsibility. But if the person has accepted Christ, then that choice requires the evidence of that acceptance. That person's life should reflect ~~xxx~~ what we might call the, "Inside Out Application." That means that from within the person should come forth evidence of who it is we believe in, and who it is we are willing to serve as we live our lives.

We spoke last week of laying up treasure in heaven and along that line we need to be aware that as we seek to live our lives, there are only two things which will last forever. When Jesus was teaching what we call "The Sermon On The Mount," in the 5th chapter of Matthew in verses 17 & 18 Jesus said, (Read these). He is saying that one thing that will last forever is God's Word.

Shortly before His ^{DEATH} ~~Ascension~~, Jesus was speaking to His disciples about Himself and when Peter said that "He," Jesus, was the Christ, Jesus said, "Upon this rock ~~will~~ I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

What is the Church made up of? People! It is people ~~xxxx~~ who are the second thing that will last forever.

The Word of God, and People are the two eternal things and these are where we should be investing our lives. How are we making the "Inside Out Application?" Is there evidence coming from our lives that there is something within that is being applied to our lives?

A Gallup poll of just a few years ago tells us that a large majority of the citizens of our nation claim to be Christians but one wonders if this is true when we see the evidence of the Christian Church lacking influence in our society. It was Dwight L. Moody who said this about Christians in 1887:

"Why I may say with truth, that there is only about one in ten, who profess Christianity, who will turn around and glorify God with a loud voice. Nine out of ten are still-born Christians. You never hear of them. If you press them hard with the question whether they are Christians, they might say, 'Well, I hope so.' We never see it in their actions; we never see it in their lives."

Sadly, one-hundred years later, the same thing can be said about the Church-scene today.

What do other people see when they look at us?

(Illustration of poor little boy; mansion of rich girl & she was poor like him)

Under the light of the sun, both of the houses were the same. Under the light of God's Son, Jesus, what is shining out of our lives?

The call of our Savior is still sounding forth this very day. - "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture ~~said~~ hath said, out of belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Jesus should be pouring out of us, but perhaps we need to first pour ourselves out to Him.

Keith Green a Christian singer sings a song that states:

"My eyes are dry,
My faith is old,
My heart is hard,
My prayers are cold,
And you know how I ought to be,
Alive to You and dead to me.

Oh, what can be done for an old heart like mine?
Soften it up with oil and wine.
The oil is you,
Your spirit of love,
Please wash me anew in the wine of your love.

Let the living waters flow from us this day because we have brought our thirst to the Lord and He has taken care of our thirst through Himself.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor November 20, 1988

Mr. Bob Weisenstein, Liturgist
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Meron Hewis and Jimmy Shearer

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

*Processional Hymn No. 687 "God of Our Fathers"

*Ascription

*Call to Worship:

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof:
the world and they that dwell therein.

People: Offer unto God thanksgiving; and put thy
vows unto the most High.

Leader: Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with
the first fruits of all thine increase.

*Invocation: (In Unison) O Lord our God, You are always
more ready to bestow Your good gifts upon us than we
are to seek them, and are willing to give more than we
desire or deserve: help us to seek that we may truly
find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock
that the door of Your mercy may be opened to us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Praise: Leader - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

*Children's Moment

Thankoffering Invitation:

BEB - Leader: You shall remember the Lord your God for it
is He that gives you power to get wealth. And
you shall not appear before the Lord empty.

People: Every man shall give as he is able, according
to the blessing of the Lord your God, which
He has given you.

ME - Pastor: For if there be a willing mind, it is acceptable
according to that which a man has, and not
according to that which he has not.

People: Every man as he purposes in his heart, so let
him give, not grudgingly or of necessity, for
God loves a cheerful giver.

BEB Leader: Upon the first day of the week, let every one
of you lay by him in store as God as prospered
you. "Bring ye all the tithes into the store-
house, that there may be meat in Mine house
and prove Me herewith, saith the Lord of hosts.
If I will not open the windows of heaven and
pour out a blessing that there shall not be
room enough to receive it."

ME Offering (all offerings, envelopes, loose change, canned
goods, etc., bring forward at this time
and place in the offering plates and containers
provided. The Ushers will assist you at the rail.)

*Thankoffering Dedication and Prayer: (In Unison) Most
Gracious God, by whose appointment the seasons come and
go, and who made the fruits of the earth to minister to
the needs of men, we offer You our thanksgivings that You
have brought us through the circuit of another year, and
that according to Your promise, seedtime and harvest have
not failed. We thank You that You have prospered the
farmer in his toil, and have crowned the year with Your
goodness. We praise You for the plentiful harvests to feed
the hungry and minister to our comfort. At the thought of
Your bounty, we offer to You our sacrifices of thanks-
giving, and pray that You will feed our souls with the
Bread of Life. Thanks be to You, O Lord, through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Come Before The Lord With Praise"

*Scripture: Genesis 8: 15-22

Sermon: "Ask, Receive, And Then What?"

*Invitational Hymn No. 392 "Come Ye Thankful People, Come"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

***** *Congregation Standing *****
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mrs.

Isabel Eichhorn in memory of her husband George.

Mrs. LuAnn Janicki will greet our members and guests this
morning at the door.

Ushering will be done today by members of the Youth Group.

Nursery will be provided today by Michelle Henry.

Van driver for November 27th will be Bill Snyder.

Herb Shearer and Ben Vensel will be visiting the hospital
this week.

Hospitalized:

Attendance last Sunday was 121 with 8 visitors.

We welcome all who worship in thanksgiving with us. May these moments you spend in sincere thanks, thoughtful worship and earnest prayer, give you a renewed and grateful heart.

THE BUTLER FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
NOVEMBER 28, 1991

North Street Christian Church
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001

Gracious God: by your providence we live and work and join in families; and from your hand receive those things we need, gift on gift, all free. We thank you for the harvest of goodness you supply: for food and shelter, for words and gestures, for all our human friendships. Above all, we praise you for your Son, who came to show mercy and who names us His own brothers. Glory to you for the great kindness to all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE Karen Krenitsky, Organist

"Come Ye Thankful People Come" North Street Christian
Handbell Choir

WELCOME Rev. Robert Huber
Pastor, North Street
Christian Church

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMNS: "We Gather Together" No. 561
"I Just Came to Praise the Lord" No. 113

PSALM No. 65
OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 8: 15-22
Robert Olsavicky
Community Alliance

ANTHEM "O Give Thanks To The Lord"
North Street Christian Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24
Robert Olsavicky
Community Alliance

Sermon "After The Blessings - Then What?"
Rev. Ralph Linx

HYMN: "For The Beauty of the Earth" No. 560

OFFERTORY STATEMENT Rev. Robert Huber
OFFERTORY
OFFERTORY PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC Paula Baptista

Closing Hymn: "In Thanksgiving Let Us Praise Him"
No. 557

Benediction Rev. Robert Huber

FIRST THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION
By George Washington, 1789

WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection, aid and favors....

Now, THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the Beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country, and for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

The Spiritual Life Commission of the Butler Fellowship of Churches wishes to thank all the participants of this program. We especially thank those who made the service possible, the Rev. Robert Huber, Pastor, Karen Krenitsky, organist, and the Congregation of the North Street Christian Church for offering their time, talent and facilities to make this service possible.

Community Bible Church - Baltimore, MD. 11/4/87

Prelude

Greeting/Welcome/Prayer/Announcements

Prayer, Annual Meeting/Rev. Leon Glover of
Ev. Free Church
Discuss options/possibilities

Adoration

Call to worship: 470 - 1st Church of Christ - 1st

"I WAS DEAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME, 'LET US

GIVE YOU LIFE"

Psalm 139:1-13

Offering/Prayer

*Gospel

Isaiah 43:1-12

*Prayer

For future: Genesis 22:1-14 - 11/20/88 - RUTHER

Psalm 139:1-13 - "I WAS DEAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME, 'LET US

*Gospel

*Benediction

Rever

Penney/Don Schwab farmers-SW Kansas
lrges famr equip auction in 'states
pray=JUS A TRUK L, JUS A TRUK TO HAUL OUR GRAIN

Steer by ARM-STRONG

N' TRUK, UPSET-RAK 2old one & ask=WAT AM I GO 2DO W/THIS OLD
PCE OF JUNK, LORD?

Had ask, Receive, But now wat? *AFTER BLESS - THEN WAT?*

Sevrl principles involv:

FIRST - Providence of G

vs 15-19 -

vs 20-Noah worsh G

vs 21B-Offr acptbl 2 God & He declar this

vs 22-This G's prom = *SIMPLY - HE WIL PROVIDE*

(Ilus SS teachr & ask, Why do U Bliev in God?)

boy ansr-I DONT KNO, UNLES ITS SMTH THAT RUNS IN TH/FAMILY

G wil provid like sed vs 22, so why ask, why is it necessary?

We taut need 2ask 4intangibl

scrip tel us as ask/wil receiv

aftr Ask, Receiv, Then Wat?

(Ilus Penney-Wat ami go 2DO W/THIS OLD PIEC OF JUNK, LORD?

U CAN GIV THANKS TRUK SED

THANKS 4THIS CANTANKERUS, TEMPERMENTAL HUNK OF METAL??? NEVER!

Remem pray=JUS A TRUK L, JUS A TRUK TO HAUL OUR GRAIN

She thank G 4 th/truk & remem truk servd purpos

P sez 1 Thes 5:18 *(IN EVRYTH GIV THANKS 4 THIS IS TH/WIL
OF G IN XP IS CONCERNING U)*

(J Matthew Henry & thankful for being robbed)

Bib commentator Matthew Henry made entry in diary aftr being
robbed:

LET ME B THANKFUL-FIRST, BCUZ I WAS NEVR ROBBED B4;

SECOND, BCUZ ALTHO THEY TOK MY WALLET THEY DID NOT TAK MY LIF

THIRD, BCUZ ALTHO THEY TOK MY ALL, IT WAS NOT MUCH;

& FOURTH, BCUZ IT WAS I WHO WAS ROBBED, NOT I WHO ROBBED.

Thanksgiv dinnr & Don red=vs 22 & dottr add=& NEITHER WIL MOMS TRI

Wat U hav exasperates U - *IRRITATES U?*

5kernels & use at dinnr this year

Ask, Receiv, & Then Wat? = Giv thanks BCuz G sed=vs 22

AFTER TH/BLESSINGS - THEN WAT?

"Ask, Receive, And Then What?"
 Scripture: Genesis 8:15-22
 (Penney & Don Schwab-farmers SW Kansas; others harv & cost keep eat
 profit; get combin/grain cart, but need truck; auction lrges 3state
 drove 250mi; Penney pray-JHS A TRUK L, JUS A TRUK 2HAUL OUR GRAIN:
 Jus simpl truk, no fancy uphol, radio 2listn Dal Cowboys
 7-8 plain white cab, rip uphol, paint flak off & lk lik real losr
 Auctioneer=U CAN HAUL A LOT OF GRAIN IN THIS
 man ansr=LKS LIK IT HAS HAUL MOR THAN ITS SHARE
 nothr sed-ITS A HARVESTERS REJEC, THATS FOR SURE
 Bid start & only Don & nothr man lef; othr man calculat, shak hed
 & Schwabs had ther truk
 evn had radio, ther prays wer ansred
 drov hom, fww day latr Penney was 2driv truk 2field
 Truk stalld, got start, went 2bakup, put in revers & go 4ward, wen
 finly get 2field, Don expl sumone regear, & gears wrong place
 Smtimes brakes work wel, others push 2fwd 2bakup
 childrn teas Mom ~~xxxxxx~~ STEERING BY ARM-STRONG
 truk tempermentl, but got job dun & Penney tolerat Bcoz all had
 1980 Dad bot nu truk; Penney driv grain 2town, set radio, ofside
 road, upset & wreck truk
 bak to old truk & all whil ask, "WAT AM I GOING 2DO W/THIS OLD
 TRUKXXXXXX PIEC OF JUNK, LORD?"
 She had Ask, Receiv, But Now Wat?
 Ther sevrل principles involv in this situatin & all othrs lik it
 FIRST: Ther is G's providenc
 Th/worل dur days Noah Bcam very corrup, Noah & famly wer only
 ones who ritus in G's site
 We all kno story how G destroy inhabs of erth w/flud
 folo flud, watrs reced & once awin man cud set fut dry grnd
 this wher Scrip this morn Bgin-was 15-19
 vs -out of thankfulness/lav Noah worsh Him
 vs 219=offr acrtbl 2 G & G declar this
 vs 22=this G's prom
 it thru Noah G provid salv 4humanty
 All humn race destroy but Noah/fam, & fr/them all futur humanty
 cam 4th
 At this tim, G made prom 2all mank & that prom was=Vs 22-READ
 this not conditional prom if man do such & such G wud do this
 it simply G wud do this regardles wat man mite do
 His provisoin was/is 2B givn 2evrone whthr Bliev in Him or not
 He simply states He wil provid & wil do regardles of season, or
 th/weathr, & He wil do so day aftr day, yr aftr yr
 (Ilus SS teacher & ask clas say Why do U Bliev in G?)
 indirecly, it is smth that runs in famly, all famlys can trace
 ther Bgins bak 2 G's orig creatin & we R actuly all of one famly
 & G's prom as givn Scrip is 2all mank, & not 2jus a few
 But as lk at G's prom, or provisoin mus ask=If G wil provid, wher
 is necesaty 2ask Him 4anyth?

ansr lvs in th/fav, G prom suply w/necesarys of lif, & we R taut
 thru His word we need 2ask Him 4thoz intangibls wh/need 4live
 G givs us means 2 liv, eat, surviv, but mus lean on Him 4 directin
 4help, & 4th/knowledg of wat He wils 4us as we liv day by day
 Scrip also inform us as we ask, so we wil receiv, & if we hav any
 kint of relaship w/G we can ea atest that aftr we hav askd, we
 ha receivd, but aftr this=Then Wat?
 This exaclly sam quest Penney Schwab ask
 Tim aftr tim smth went wrong w/truk & aftr wreck nu one had 2rel;
 on old one
 it then she ask quest=WAT AM I GO 2DO W/THIS OLD PIEC JUNK L?
 She sed she nu truks cant talk, but sed had strnges feel this one
 ansred & sed=U CAN GIV THANKS
 & agin she ask G quest=GIV THANKS 4THIS CANTANKRUS, TEMPERMENTL
 HUNK OF METAL? & her ansr was=NEVER!
 But then her words of her prayr cam bak 2her=JUS A TRUK L, A TRUK
 TO HAUL OUR GRAIN
 She had askd, she had receivd, but she had nevr sed a word of thanx
 But she had also spent yrs complain bout th/gift
 He ques was=GUD IT B THAT HER ATTITUD WAS TH/TRUKS MAIN PROB?
 As she pondred this she grumbld, THANK U LORD, FOR THIS TRUK
 then she thot of th/probs had w/truk & tho they wer many, brakes
 nevr faild on th/hiway, nevr had any acidents, no one was evr hurt
 it had hauled load aftr load, faithfulty day aftr day
 From this do we conclud that evn in bad times do we thank G 4thoz
 events?
 P sez in 1 Thes 5:18
 (Ilus of Matthew Henry, B robdd & giv thanks)
 2giv thanks wen circums R not favrbl 4thanks is wat G wants us 2
 C as our duty
 it always easy say thank U Lord wen things R at ther best & we
 R 1 th/mntn peak, but taks real faith 2giv thanks wen things R
 at ther worst
 So it was, Schwabs complet harv in Nov & that yr as sat dwn 2ther
 thanks, giv dinnr, Don read-Vs 22-Read
 & as famly sed Amen 2gethr, ther litl dottr sed=& neithr will
 Mom's truk
 Wat do U hav in Ur lif that exasprates U? Is ther anyth lik
 this ol truk in Ur lif? Is ther persn who drives U up th/wal at ju
 (us mentin his/her name?)
 How hav U handld it? Hav U evr givn thanks 4that thing, or that
 persn?
 This morn U wer givn env w/5kernels, & it bin expl bout signif
 ther mor in NARTH if U want tak, & I suges custom wh/dun by sum
 famlys of giv ea famly membr a kernel-then ea membr state one
 thing thankful for
 NO TRIVIA LIK=thankful for this meal, my famly, etc-state why
 Ask, Receiv, & Then Wat? It is 2giv thanks Bcoz G has sed-Vs 22
 Wat do U hav that wil not ceas lik Penney Schwab's old truk?
 watevr it is, giv thanks for it

11/20/88

Scripture: Genesis 8:15-22

Penney and Don Schwab own a farm in southwestern Kansas. Each year they hired other men to harvest their grain. But each year they were paying out more for that harvesting and realizing less for themselves. So they finally scraped enough money together to buy an old combine and a rickety grain ^{car} but they desperately needed a truck. They shopped around and all of the trucks available simply cost too much and a truck was out of the question. But just two weeks before the fall harvest they read a notice of an auction to be held and it was billed as, "THE LARGEST CONSIGNMENT AUCTION OF HARVEST EQUIPMENT IN THREE STATES." Although it was 250 miles to Plainview, Texas, they decided to make the trip. While they were driving to the auction, Penney prayed. They ~~new~~ knew the specifics of what they needed and she prayed, "Just a truck, Lord. Just a truck to haul our grain." She felt her prayer was simple enough. She wasn't asking for a pretty truck with ~~upholstered~~ nice upholstery, or a radio so she could listen to the Dallas Cowboy football games while she drove. It was simply, "Just a truck, to haul our grain."

They walked down the rows of equipment to be sold and there were five trucks of the kind they needed. As the auction progressed Penney's spirits sank because a lot of the equipment was being sold for very high prices. But when the auctioneer complained about not being able to give a certain piece of equipment away because of low bidding her spirits revived. Finally, around two o'clock the trucks were to be sold. ~~Two trucks~~ On the first two trucks the bidding started at \$2000 over what Don and Penney could afford. Don was able to bid on the next two, but soon the bidding was beyond their price range. Now only one truck was left. It was a 1973 model with a plain white cab, with a rusting beat up body on it. Inside, yellow foam rubber poked through the rips in the seat covers, and different colors of paint flaked off different parts of it and it ~~looked~~ looked like a real loser. The auctioneer said, "You can haul a lot of grain in this," to which some man muttered, "It looks like it has hauled more than its share." Another man said, "It's a harvester's reject, that's for sure."

But the bidding started and soon only Don and another man were left. Twice the bid was raised and the other man checked his calculator, and then shook his head, and the truck was Don and Penney's. The Schwab's had their truck, and it even had a radio, their prayers had been answered.

They drove home and a few days afterward Don told Penney to bring the truck to the field later in the morning so they could load it. She got into the truck, put it in low gear and then into second and it died. She got it started again and ~~somehow~~ somehow was able to get it moving forward. But when she needed to put it in reverse, the truck moved forward. Finally, when she got to the field Don told her that someone had worked on the transmission and the gears were not where they should have been, so they had to guess until they hit the right ones. And the radio only picked up one country and western station, not the one which broadcast the football games. The brakes worked well most of the time, but there were times when pushing them to the floor barely slowed the truck. Their children teased their mother about driving the truck with "steering by arm-strong."

The truck was tempermental, but it got the job done, but Penney said she just tolerated it because it was all they had. Everything seemed to go wrong with it at one time or another and yet it still kept running. In 1980 Don's dad bought them a new truck and they were thrilled. Penney was hauling a load of grain to the mill and while she was trying to tune in the radio she was too close to the edge of the road and in trying to correct the steering the load shifted and the truck upset. She wasn't hurt, but the truck was wrecked. So it was back to the old truck again. And all the while Penney kept asking, "What am I going to do with this old piece of junk, Lord?"

She had asked, and had received, "But now what?" There are several principles involved in this situation and all others like it.

First, there is God's providence. The world during the days of Noah became very corrupt. Noah and his family of all the people on the earth, were the only ones who were righteous in God's sight. We all know the story of how God destroyed ~~the earth~~ all the inhabitants of the earth with the flood. Following the flood the waters receded and once again man could set foot on dry ground. This is where our Scripture for this morning begins, and we read,

(read verses 15 through 19)

And Noah, out of love and thankfulness to God, worshiped Him as we read, (read verse 20).

This offering^{was} acceptable to God and God makes the declaration, (read verse 21B).

But more than that there is the promise, (read verse 22). It was through Noah that God provided salvation for humanity. All of the human race was destroyed except Noah and his family and from them all of humanity came forth. At this time God made a promise to all of mankind. That promise was, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

This was not a conditional promise that if man would do such and such, God would do this.

It was simply that God would do this regardless of what man might do. His provision was and is to be given to everyone whether they believe in Him or not. He simply states that He will provide. And He will do this day after day, year after year, regardless of the season, or the weather. Simply put, "HE WILL PROVIDE."

(Illustration of Sunday School teacher asking, "Why do you believe in God?")

A Sunday School teacher asked her class to state ~~why~~ "Why you believe in God?" She told some of the answers she received, but the one she liked the best came from a little boy who said, "I don't know, unless it's something that runs in the family."

Indirectly, it is something that runs in the family. All families can trace their beginnings back to God's original creation and we are actually all of one family. And God's promise as given in our Scripture is to all mankind and not just a few.

But as we look at God's promise of provision, we must then ask, "If God will provide, where is the necessity to ask Him for anything?" The answer lies in the fact that God has promised to supply us with the necessities of life and we are taught through His Word that we need to ask Him for those intangibles which we need for our lives. God gives us the means to live, to eat, to survive, but we must lean on Him for direction, for help, and for the knowledge of what He wills for us as we live day by day. Scripture also informs us that as we ask, so we shall receive. And if we have had any kind of relationship with God, we can each attest that after we have asked, we have received, but after this, "Then What?"

This is exactly the same question that Penney Schwab asked.

Time after time things went wrong with their old beatup truck. And after she had wrecked the new truck, she had to go back to the old one. It was then that she asked the question of God "What am I going to do with this old piece of junk, Lord?"

She said, she knew that trucks can't talk, but she had the strangest feeling that that one answered and said, "You can give thanks."

And again she asked God a question, "Give thanks for this cantankerous tempermental hunk of metal?" And her answer was, "Never!"

Then her words of prayer came back to her, "Just a truck Lord, A truck to haul our grain."

She had asked, and she had received, but she had never said a word of thanks. But she had also spent years complaining about the gift. Her question was, "Could it be that her attitude was the truck's main problem?"

As she pondered this, she grumbled, "Thank You Lord, for this truck."

Then she thought of the problems they had with the truck and she reasoned that though things went wrong with it, the truck's brakes never failed on the highway, it got them to and from the grain mills, and it hauled load after load of grain faithfully day after day.

From this, do we conclude that even in bad times do we thank the Lord for those events?

The Apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the people in the church at Thessalonica, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you,"
1 Thessalonians 5:18.

(Illustration of Matthew Henry being robbed and giving thanks)

To give thanks when circumstances are not favorable for thanks is what God wants us to see as our duty. It's always easy to say thank you Lord when things are at their best and we are on that mountain peak. But it takes real faith to give thanks when things are at their worst.

So it was that the Schwab's completed their harvest in November and that year as they sat down to their Thanksgiving dinner, Don Schwab read, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." And as the family said Amen together their little daughter said, "And neither will Mom's truck."

What do you have in your life that exasperates you? Is there anything like this old truck in your life? Is there a person who drives you up the wall with just the thought of that person, or the very mention of his or her name? How have you handled it? Have you ever given thanks for that thing, or that person?

This morning, you were given a little envelope which by now you have discovered contained five grains of corn. You have heard ~~the~~ and read the significance of them. (There are more in the basket on the table in the narthex which I would suggest you take as needed.) I say that because there is something I think we should each do. I would request that when we sit down to our Thanksgiving Dinner whenever and wherever that may be, we distribute at least one kernel to each person at the table. Then before the prayer is given, each person, no matter how young or how old around that table, should be asked to say thanks for just one thing. They should be encouraged to say thanks for things that are not superficial, such as, "This food." They should be encouraged to be specific like, a specific answer to a prayer that year; for a specific act of love by someone; for a specific provision of God, etc. "Ask, Receive, And Then What?" It is to give thanks, because God has said, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." What do you have that will not cease like Penney Schwab's old truck? Whatever it is, give thanks for it.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor November 27, 1988

Mr. Bob Weisenstein, Liturgist
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Jimmy Shearer and Meron Hewis

+ + + + +
HANGING OF THE GREENS 11:00 A.M.

Prelude "A Christmas Lullaby"

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Joys

*Processional Hymn No. 190 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

*Ascription

*Prayer (In Unison) O God, You prepared the hearts and
minds of men of old for the coming of Your Son, and
Your Spirit ever works to illumine our darkened lives
with the light of His Gospel; prepare now, our hearts
and minds, we beseech You, that Christ may dwell within
us, and ever reign in our thoughts and affections, as
the King of Love, and the very Prince of Peace. This
we ask in His name. Amen.

The Meaning of Advent

The Banner of the Angel and Annunciation

Presentation of the Advent Wreath

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn Response No. 174

The Christmas Symbols:

STAR - Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10

Hymn Response No. 201 - first verse

STAR AND MANGER BANNER

Hymn Response No. 201 - second verse

HOLLY WREATH

Response "The Holly and the Ivy" (everyone sing)

Offering

Offertory "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Doxology - page 382

Children's Moment

The Christmas Symbols continued:

CHRISMON TREE

GREENS AND MISTLETOE

Hymn Response No. 169

CANDLES

Hymn Response No. 195

BELLS

PO' ETTIAS

Hymn No. 168 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

MANGER SCENE

THE ANGEL

THE HOLY FAMILY

Hymn Response No. 180

The Promise

*Invitational Hymn No. 170 "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude "Rejoice, Emmanuel Shall Come"

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

"THE HOLLY AND THE IVY"

The Holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears
the crown.

The Holly bears a blossom, as white as lily flow'r,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To be our sweet Savior.

The Holly bears a berry, as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to do poor sinners good.

Refrain: The rising of the sun, and the running of the
deer,

The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

- - - - -
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gannon in memory of Alan Miller.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Campbell will greet our friends and
members at the door this morning.

Ushering today is Don Kingsley, George Pflugh, Dick
Dally and Dick Mangel.

Attendance last Sunday was 117 with 9 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Beth Tait.

Van Driver for December 4th will be Marty Henry.

Rob Vinroe and Dick Mangel will be visiting the hospital
this week.

Hospitalized:

CANTATA CHOIR practice for Women Only will be held on
Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

TALENT SHEETS AND PLEDGE CARDS were to be turned in by
today. If you have not, please see that I get them
by next Sunday. Thank you.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives you the opportunity to
accept Christ, to pray, to meditate or to seek
counseling. The Pastor will assist if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
OF SAGAMORE

November 29, 1998

GREETINGS AND JOYS OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

ADVENT WREATH

**HYMN-----#256

OFFERING PRAYER

OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY

PRAYER AND PRAYER REQUESTS

HYMN-----#345

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:5-25

SERMON: "Simply Divine Gifts: An Angel"

**INVITATIONAL HYMN----- # 92

**BENEDICTION

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. The invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

** Please. 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS
OF THE WEEK

* December 24, 1998: 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service.

* Please keep the BILO receipts coming every little bit adds up.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

November 29-----Helen McCausland
November 30-----Heather Abbey
December 3-----Joanne Fairman
December 4-----Cory Fairman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

BARB
NORMA
TERRY
DON - EYE
AUSTIN

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 4, 1988

Mr. Bob Weisenstein, Liturgist

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Megan Hewis and Dave Brinker

+ + + + + ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 184 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) O God, it is easier for us to call you Lord, than it is to do what your Lordship requires. We enlist in your causes but find ourselves losing interest. We promise ourselves courage but find ourselves giving in to fear. We want to be sensitive but find it easy to be hard. We fail to see and take advantage of the great opportunities surrounding us. Forgive us, our Father. Take our limitations and turn them into possibilities for service. Grant us this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Children's Moment

Hymn No. 192 "Angels We Have Heard On High"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy Spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

*Offering

*Offertory "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (organ and sax)

*Doxology

Anthem: "What a Friend"

*Scripture: Luke 1: 5-25

Sermon: "Simply Divine Gifts: An Angel"

*Invitational Hymn No. 197 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. & Mrs. Paul Riener in memory of Mr. Gale Leighton and Mr. & Mrs. William Riener.

Mrs. Becky Shearer and boys will greet our members and friends at the door this morning.

Serving as Ushers for today are Marty Henry, John Snow,

Frank Crawford, and Jeff Snyder.

Attendance last Sunday was 140 with 19 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Millie Wachsmuth.

Van Driver for December 11th will be Dick Dally.

Rick Vinroe and Lloyd Link will be visiting the hospital this week.

> Hospitalized: Lois Stokes in BMH. - R.S.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

> Dec. 5th - Committee Set-ups and Calendar for 1989 at 7 P.M. This is for all Council members and Committee Chairpersons.

> Dec. 7th - Council meeting at 7 P.M.

> Dec. 8th - Sunday School teachers meeting at 7 P.M.

> Dec. 14th - Benevolence Committee meeting at 7 P.M.

The new Flower Chart for 1989 is now hanging in the Narthex. Please take a minute and sign up for flowers.

Daily Bread booklets for Dec., Jan., and Feb. are on the table in the Narthex.

> COOKIES, COOKIES, AND MORE COOKIES are needed for this upcoming holiday season of activities at the church. We need them for Dec. 11th Christmas Program, and on the 18th and 19th for the Christmas Cantata. If you would be so kind to help out, please let Helen Riener know.

> POINSETTIA time is here! If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia or two to decorate the chancel of the church please fill in the information below and drop it in the offering plate. Deadline to order is Dec. 11th.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

Price is \$6.10 each.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives you the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

THE 3 ANGELS WHO WERE WITH HIM WHEN HE WAS IN THE GRAVE

THE 3 ANGELS WHO WERE WITH HIM WHEN HE WAS IN THE GRAVE

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"Simply Divine Gifts: An Angel"

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

At mention of Xmas,ther thoz instivly think get.giv presents (Ilus Aunt & disapoint nephew)

(Ilus man surpris wife & she no spk sinc last Xmas)

Xmas gifts canb many thing & usuly "

I sur U hav herd peo mak fus ovr sum them & U may hav evn herd say sumth lik-Isnt that Simply Divin?

Wel,in actualty gifs hav bin givn 2mank wh/wer=Simply Divine & this yr we R go 2 lk sum them

In th/Xmas story as record Scrip ther R many w8 cud pik out, but we R go 2 lk at th/mor import gifs G gav 2mank

Suroun birth Js ther is gif wh/appear in thoz events at least five times

That gift was=An Angel

G gav His gif luv in th/peren of Js Xp, but along w/this suprem gif He gav othr gifs as whol episod unfolded

An Angel was one of thoz gifs

So quest is=WHY DID G USE THIS METHOD? JUS WAT R WE TALK BOUT WHEN WE SPK OF ANGELS?

(Ilus two boys talk bout anpls &=Sum R Strngers In Undrwns)

anpls hav bin depic in many ways

We kno that they R hvnlv beings creatd by G B4 G evr form erth & worl

Ther R His mesngers wh/G use 2tel His mesag watevr it is

We cud spend much tim lk at evidenc of anpls as unfold in G's word

But 4this morn,we go 2 lk at jus one of G's mesngers

Our act Bgin w//ach work in templ

It fel 2 Zach at this tim 2perf th/duty of burn incense 2 th/L on this day

this was duty pr only did lnce in liftim

Th/lot fel 2 Zach on this day & we can C why

All this was scord G's wonfrul timtabl

Ea thez events had 2tak plac in cert sequenc as G work

His plan salv out 4mank

vs 11=as Zach attend offr incens ther appear an Angel

2stan rt sid of altr was 2stan in th/plac of G especil in plac lik templ

naturly,this had efec on Zach & read=Vs 12

Th/efec this anpl had on Zach was lik th/watr of lak/sea that is churning or boiling

this in essenc is wat Troubled means in this vs

So naturly if Zach Trubl lik churn/boil watr he fil w/fear

Th/9r FEAR=PHOBOS=fr/wh/we get Ensl word=PHOBIA & word mean exceed fearfl,fll w/fear,alarmd,B afraid

Zach was terifyd,but fear wer grndles Bcus anpl spks 2his & we read=Vs 13

in othr word,ther no need 4fear,th/mesngers of G is not ther

2pas judgmen on Zach,but 2giv gud news wud Bcum fathr

2/
 But was⁴ is signif of this angl: Was he jus mesngr of G?
 Or was he smth specil?
 Vs 19=In all Scrip only 2 anpls R identfy=Archangel Mich & Gab
 Gabriel was specil angl, He G's mesngr mercy/promis
 he appear 4times in buk-Bibl, & ea tim bear gud news
 1st read Gab=Dan 8:15-17-announc G's plan 4end times
 then Dan 9:21-24=here Gab impar th/cum of Mesiah
 it then read of Gab in NT
 1st appear Zach this Scrip & then appear Mary vs 26-28=READ
 Thus can C G's mesags delivr 2mank & of cors, man always hav
 optunt'y scof/sneer & say=Way bak then ther thoz tel thez fairy
 tales & they hav no plac in our society
 & wat wordly peo say in this respec is absolutly tru,
 U don't hav 2Bliev in anpls, but if U dont Bliev in anpls then
 U dont Bliev wat G's Word tel us bout His plan 4us,
 & if U dont Bliev G can step in? histry in specil mesngr,
 then UP faith isnt worth anyth
 It all boil dwn 2this, & that is is it is pur & simply=FAITH
 As peo analvz situatins as record G's Word such as Gab visit 2
 Zach & Mary, tendncv is ? perhaps Bliev it, but 2pas it off as
 only R posibl way bak then, & cuz G Duznt Oprt That Way 2Day"
 But if this tru, then why G inspir writr Ps tels us=Ps 91:9-12
 this Scrip asur us ther R anpls watch ovr us 2keep us fr harm
 Writr Heb tel us=12:1
 now if U no Bliev witr thez scrips that tel how G giv protect
 w/anpls, & they watch ovr us, how do U expl sum times wen U had
 a nro escap w/deth or serius injry????
 Can U think of tim wen U had ~~xxxx~~ mystrieus hand guid Urs, or
 steppd in 2 keep U saf? How do U expl it? Coincidenc? Fate?
 If U R a Xpian, ther is no such thing as coincidenc or fate
 As a Xpian Things R eithr of G or of th/devil
 If mysterius hpnings hav tken plac Ur lif wh/savd U fr/deth
 injry, then it was fr/G Bcoz Satn duznt let gud thing hpn ?
 Blievrs
 & if U canot atribut that 2 G, 2whom do U giv credit?
 (Ilus Chines bukstor & delivranc by angl)
 Was that strngr an angl? Why wer soldrs unabl 2 entr?
 (Ilus misinary in China & 4 gards)
 Wer they anpls? Cud U prov they definitly wernt?
 (Ilus Marines in Korea, wild boar, & Korean gudie)
 Was it coincidenc boar? Was it coincidenc a Korean? & who was?
 in ea thez incidents do U Bliev G provid anpls 2protc His own?
 G's gifs 2men hav alway Bin very dimpl & plain, nuth we cud con-
 sidr elabrat, but yet, they R alway out of ordinary
 Th/Bibl spks many places bout G's mesngers, His anpls
 They R sent 4protectin, 4guidanc, & giv mesags fr/G
 They R One of His Simply Divin Gifs, & ther mesap 2men of old &
 2us 2day is=Fear Not G invites us 2turn livs ovr 2Him & He prom
 protec & rev of Sel? We may not understnd His, but all we ask

(Ilus aunt & disabtd nephew;
 (Ilus man & wif no ask sinc las Xmas)
 Wat R Anpls?
 (Ilus boys talk bout anpls & sum R strngers in
 undrwaers - HER 13:2)
 v 1=Angl appear
 vs 12=Truble=boil, stir water
 Fear=Gr Phobos=exceed fearfl, alarmd
 vs 13
 vs 19=Gabriel one of two & appear 4times Bibl
 Dan 8:15-17
 9:21-23
 vs 11
 vs 26-28
 Ps 91:9-12
 Heb 12:1
 No coincidenc or fate 4 Xpian
 (Ilus Chines bukstor & strngr)
 (Ilus Missinary China & 4 gards)
 (Ilus Marines, wild boar, S. Ker guid)

is that we can 2Him in faith & He wil do th./rest

DAILY LOG SHEET

DATE:

ON LIST:

Artz, F.

Connally, J.

Dodds, C.
Dowell, V.

Johnson, K.

Leri, R.

Marzullo, M.
Mast, M.
McKnight, J.
Miller, N.

"Simply Divine Gifts: An Angel"

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

At the mention of Christmas, there are many who instinctively think of getting and giving presents.

(Illustration of Aunt and disappointed Nephew)

"I'm sorry you don't like my Christmas gift," the Aunt said to her Nephew, "but I asked if you preferred a large check or a small check."

He replied, "I know, but I didn't think you meant neckties."

(Illustration of man surprising his wife)

~~xx~~

A man said, "My wife hasn't spoken to me since last Christmas."

His friend asked why and he said, "Well, I asked her what she wanted for Christmas and she said, 'Oh, just surprise me.'"

So at three o'clock Christmas morning, I leaned over and went, "BOO!"

Christmas gifts can be many things and they usually are. I'm sure you have heard people making a fuss over some of them and you may have even heard someone say something like, "Isn't that simply divine?" Well, in actuality, gifts have been given to mankind which were "Simply Divine," and this year we are going to look at a few of them. In the Christmas story as recorded in Scripture there are many that we could pick out. But we are going to look at the more important gifts which God gave to mankind.

Surrounding the birth of Jesus there is a gift which appears in those events at least ~~four~~ ^{five} times. That gift was ~~an~~ "An Angel."

If God gave us His Gift of Love in the person of Jesus Christ. But along with this supreme gift, He gave other gifts as this whole episode evolved. An Angel was one of those other gifts. So the question is, "Why did God use this method?" ~~Why~~ Just what are we talking about when we speak of angels?

(Illustration of two boys talking about angels)

A preacher ~~was~~ preached a sermon from the book of Hebrews and the verse which was his text was Hebrews 13:2, which states, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

A little boy heard that sermon and he was telling one ^{of} his friends about angels. His friend said that angels had wings to which the first boy thought back to what the preacher had said and he stated that angels did not have wings. The other boy insisted and the boy who heard the sermon said, "That isn't true. Our preacher said that some of them are strangers in underwears."

Angels have been depicted in many ways. We know that they are heavenly beings created by God before God ever formed the earth and the world. They are His messengers which God uses to tell His message whatever it is. We could spend much time in looking at the evidence of angels as it unfolds in God's Word. But for this morning, we are going to look at just one of God's messengers.

Our account begins with Zacharias working in the temple. It fell to Zacharias at this time to perform the duty of burning incense to the Lord on this particular day. This was a duty that a priest only did once in his lifetime. The lot fell to Zacharias on this day and we can see why. All of this was according to God's wonderful timetable. Each of these events had to take place in a certain sequence as God was working His plan of salvation out for mankind.

As Zacharias was attending to offering the incense on the altar, we read, "And there appeared

unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense." vs 11. To stand at the right side was to stand in the place of God especially in a place like the temple. Naturally, this had an effect upon Zacharias and we read, "And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him." vs 12.

The effect this angel had on Zacharias was ^{LIKE} the water of a lake or sea that is churning and boiling. This is the essence of what the word "troubled" means in this verse. So naturally if Zacharias was troubled like churning, boiling water, he was filled with fear. The Greek word for "fear" here is the word "PHOBOS," from which we derive our English word Phobia. That word here means to be exceedingly fearful, filled with fear, alarmed, be afraid.

Zacharias was terrified. But his fears are groundless, because the angel speaks to him, and we read, "But the angel said to him, 'Fear not, Zacharias, for thy prayer is heard and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.'"

In other words, there was no need for fear. This messenger of God was not there to pass judgement upon Zacharias, but to give him the good news that he would become a father in his old age.

But what is the significance of this angel? Was he just a messenger of God? Or was he someone special? In the 19th verse we read, "And the angel answering him said unto him, 'I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.'"

In all of Scripture only two angels are identified. One is the arch-angel Michael, and the other is Gabriel. This was a special angel. Gabriel was God's messenger of mercy and promise. He appears four times in the Bible and each time he bears good news. We first read of Gabriel in the book of Daniel. In Daniel 8:15-17 we get our first glimpse of him and he ~~announces~~ announces God's plan for the end time, (read these verses).

Then Gabriel appears to Daniel a second time and we read of this in the 9th chapter verses 21-23, (read these verses). Here Gabriel is imparting to Daniel the coming of the Messiah. It is then that we read of Gabriel in the New Testament. First he appears to Zacharias in this Scripture for this morning and then he appears to Mary as we read in verses 26-28, (read these verses).

Thus we can see that God's messages were delivered to mankind. Of course, ~~we~~ man always has the final opportunity to scoff or sneer and say "that was way back when and those 'fairy tales' have no place in our time or society." And what worldly people say in this respect is absolutely true. You don't have to believe in angels. But if you don't believe in angels, then you don't believe what God's Word tells us about His plan for us; and if you don't believe that God can step into history in a special messenger, then your faith isn't worth anything. And that is what it all boils down to, and that is pure and simple FAITH.

As people analyze situations as recorded in God's Word such as Gabriel's visit to Zacharias and Mary, the tendency is ~~to~~ to perhaps believe it, but to pass it off as only being possible back then, "Because God doesn't operate that way today." But if this is true then why did God inspire the Psalm writer to write to us in the 91st Psalm, and to tell us, (Read verses 9-12). This Scripture assures us that there are angels watching over us to keep us from harm.

Then the writer of Hebrews tells us in the 12th chapter, the 1st verse, (Read this).

Now if you say you don't believe either of these two Scriptures that tell us God gives us protection with His angels, and that they watch over us, how do you explain some of the times when you had a very narrow escape with death or serious injury? Can you think of a specific time when it seemed like a mysterious hand guided yours, or stepped in to keep you safe?

How do you explain it? Coincidence?? Fate??

If you are a Christian, there is no such thing as a co-incidence, nor is there a thing such as fate. As a Christian, things are either of God or of the devil. And if mysterious happenings have taken place in your life which saved you from death or injury, then it was from God, because Satan doesn't let good things happen to ~~xxx~~ believers. And if you cannot attribute that to God, to whom do you give credit?

(Illustration of Chinese bookstore and deliverance by an "angel")

In 1942 the Japanese had defeated the Chinese. In Shanghai, China there was a Christian bookstore. One morning about 9:00 A.M. a Japanese truck stopped in front of the store. The truck was carrying five marines and was half-filled with books. The Chinese shop assistant, a Christian man, looked out of the window and he knew what was going to happen. Jumping from the truck the marines headed for the door, but before they could enter, a neatly dressed Chinese gentleman entered the shop ahead of them. Though the shop assistant knew almost all of the local people who traded there, this man was a complete stranger. For some unexplained and unknown reason the soldiers seemed unable to follow him. They loitered outside and kept looking in the four large windows, but not entering. For two hours they stood outside without going in. The stranger asked the clerk what the soldiers wanted and the clerk told him he thought they were after the Christian books. The stranger prayed with the clerk and the two hours slipped by. At last the soldiers climbed into their army truck and drove away. The stranger left, without making a purchase or even asking about items in the store. Later that day the shop owner came in and the shop-assistant asked him, "Do you believe in angels, Mr. Lee?" The owner answered that he did.

Was that ~~stranger~~ unknown stranger an angel? Why were the soldiers seemingly unable to enter that shop?

(Illustration of missionary in China and her four "guards")

In a Chinese city bandits had surrounded the mission compound which sheltered hundreds of women and children. The night before, the missionary there had been put to bed with a serious attack of malaria. As she laid in bed it seemed as though the devil was taunting her and asking her, "When the bandits come in here, how are those promises you believe in going to protect those women and children?" In her fever and despair she cried out to God to fulfill His promises. The next night the situation was just as tense and she spent that night encouraging the people. Though serious things were happening outside of the compound, the bandits did not try to enter.

The following morning, people from three different neighboring families asked her, "Who were those four people, three sitting, and one standing, quietly watching from the top of your house all night long?" When she told them there were no people there, they refused to believe her. They said, "We saw them with our own eyes." It was then that she had to tell them of her prayers and how God must have sent His angels to protect them.

Were they angels? Could you definitely prove they weren't?

(Illustration of Marines in Korea and wild boar, and South Korean escort)

During the Korean War a group of Marines had been trapped up north. They were surrounded. The temperature was 20° below zero, and they hadn't eaten for six days. Their choice was to either freeze to death, or surrender to the Chinese. One of the men who was a Christian pointed out some Scriptures to the men and he taught them to sing a song of praise to God. Following this they heard a noise of something coming through the brush and there coming toward them was a wild boar. They jumped out of the way, and one of the soldiers raised his rifle to shoot, but before he could pull the trigger, the boar dropped over dead. That night they feasted on meat and began to regain their strength. The next morning just as the sun was rising, they heard another noise and expected a Chinese to

patrol to appear and take them captive. Instead, they found themselves face to face with a South Korean who could speak English. He said, "I will show you out." He led them through the forest and the mountains to safety behind their own lines. When they stopped to thank him, he had disappeared and they could not find him.

Was it just a co-incidence that the wild pig was provided for food and they didn't even have to shoot it? Was it co-incidence that a South Korean appeared and led to them to safety? And just who was he? In each of these incidents, do you believe that God provided His angels to protect His own?

God's gifts to man have always been very simple and plain. Nothing we could consider elaborate. But yet, they have always been out of the ordinary. The Bible speaks in many places about God's messengers, His angels. They are sent for protection, for guidance, and to give messages from God. They are one of His "Simply Divine Gifts." And their message to men of old and to us today is simply, "Fear not." God invites us to turn our lives over to Him and He promises to protect us and to reveal Himself to us. We may not understand all of His gift, but all He asks is that we come to Him in faith and He will do the rest.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 11, 1988
Mr. Bob Weisenstein, Liturgist
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Megan Hewis and Dave Brinker

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

*Processional Hymn No. 193 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Ascription

*Exhortation

*Confession (In Unison) Almighty God: we confess ourselves unworthy of Thine unspeakable Gift. We have not loved Thee as we ought; nor have we always been loving to one another. We have lived in selfishness and worldly pride; and the good gifts Thou hast bestowed upon us we have not used to relieve the burdens of others. Pardon and blot out our offenses; through the incarnate life of Thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Children's Moment

Hymn No. 185 "Away in a Manger"

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Anthem: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

Sermon: "Simply Divine Gifts: A Young Woman"

*Invitational Hymn No. 178 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Congregation Standing

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gannon in memory of family loved ones. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stewart will greet our members and guests at the door this morning.

Serving as Ushers today are: Sandy Sheppeck, Erla Hollefreund, Isabel Zichhorn and Helen Crouse.

Attendance last Sunday was 130 with 14 visitors.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Joan Campbell.

Van Driver for December 18th will be Ken Draxinger.

Art Snyder and Howard Jaillet will be visiting the hospital this week.

Hospitalized: Paul Campbell and Mrs. Elva McCormick in BMH

PICK JAILLET - 88005 CITY

LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE is going up on Tuesday evening. If you are able to help to do this, please come at 7 P.M. Bring a few carpenter tools and we will all work together to get the job done.

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE will have its final meeting of the year on December 14th at 7:00 P.M.

CAROLING, CAROLING oh what fun we have. If you would like to have some fun and bring some good cheer to our shut-ins, join us here at the church at 6:30 P.M. We will fill the Van and car pool if needed. Then we will return for refreshments, all on December 16th.

COOKIES are still needed for December 18th and 19th. Please let Helen Riemer know if you would be able to bring some. This is for the refreshments following the choir's presentation of "Noel, Jesus is Born", their cantata. Hope you will come and hear the message through songs.

TONIGHT at 7:00 P.M. the children of the Sunday School will be doing a play for the Family Christmas Program. Bring the children and join in the fun, also we will have a visitor in a red suit.

POINSETTIA time is now. If you would like to order one or two, or etc., please drop a note in the offering plate today. They are \$6.10 each, and the ordering deadline is today. These will remain in the church for Christmas Eve service as well as Christmas day.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your life. This invitation gives you the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

LA7KE - HE+LT

Q. BUT YOU HAVE NO CERTAIN CONCLUSION - PAGE 35-36

yes 25-30 Mary I am no ordinary woman
27/

28/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
29/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

30/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
31/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

32/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
33/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

34/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
35/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

36/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
37/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

38/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
39/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

40/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
41/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

42/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
43/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

44/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
45/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

46/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
47/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

48/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
49/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

50/ Mary I am no ordinary woman
51/ Mary I am no ordinary woman

Put in acct this task, Mary knew then certain things each 200 so
let, she only enrag 2 Jos, not yet Mary 21m & she will very
obviously 1 pro

her was 20 no phy contact (even though 1000), but 1000 as told
as marag & if she 3000 prer 30 marag, Jos wud renounce pub & she
1000 precisely really of law wh/was ston 4adultery

it wudB Jos who cant let stone at her
1000 w/all 1000 imputation involv, 1k was Mary daz=100 30-40
this is told by news in vs 56

import of this is if Mary want get away fr/blam or criticism
in this obvious rite wher sh gr 21m bly & not yet marry, she
chose wrong way 200 it

Zach, Eliz husband was a priest & it was pr who admin law & law
adulteres 20 punish by ston 2000
Zach 2000 very obvious adulteres under his roof unthinkable & 4
him not 2000 let 2000 again but 2000 2000

but we dont read any such action take place & reason is, Zach knu th
his 50/0
he prob knu 2000 all 2000, but knu 2000 that let he & Mary
had bin vied by angel 2000 & 2000 was 2000 2000 2000 2000

He knu all bout prom Mesiah & had bin tol Son wudB 4runner of
that Mesiah, & now knu G go 2bring this bout
(thus liv nativity scen & childrn discus=Liv Fertilty Scene)

This situ Mary, Zach, Eliz fnd selvs involv in
But buty all this was G plan it & 2000 as usual He use plain,
ord comon pco

We knu nuth bout Mary othr than fac she no undret who, wat this
child was that G gav 2 her
it prob only aftr deth & resurectin she undretud why G use her
2bring Him into th/world

bu we do know she was a Simply Divin Gift that G placd in this
world & th/purp of use her in His plan of saly 4mank
this exampl G can use anyone for His purps & He wants 2use us
as well

He invites us 2turn our livs ovr 2Him & let Him use us as He wi
This invitatin is ours 2day,
R we availbl 4 Him?

"Simply Divine Gifts: A Young Woman"

Scripture: 1. Ke 1;26-28
(Thus famlv, gift ty hson, & collectr 4 th/gift)
Now contrary 2this G nevr givs gift & demans paymen 4it
His gifa 2mank hav bin many & they R giv w/no string attach
This morn we cont nu themeDivin gifs & 2day gif isYng Woman
G had plan wh/dates bak 2creatin
Ev falln victims 2wiles of Satn thus bring deth/sap fr/G
G knu in ordr restor relationship w/man,had entr worl uniqu way
So G prom wud do by say=Gen 3:15
Here G spk Satn in serp & proph one pt worl histry wud step in
in specil way
It was 2B=SEED OF WOMN,not of man;SEED OF ONE PERSN,not two that
produc this specil persn
Many prophs latr,approx=1982yrs latr read this intrventin
Las wk lk how G did thru Simply Div Gifs & Angls,& that angl was
Gab & this morn we C he vital part 2nd gif fr/G wh/Yng Woman
Vs 26=th/6th month refr Eliz preg,who bin vist by Gab
vs 27=Gab sent specil erand 2specil persn
Yng womn engag 2B marry 2man Jos who identify as Jew & G prom
specil gif wud cum fr/Chosen pec th/Jews
Who was Mary? We no kno 4cert,all kno is Yng Womn engag 2B marry
& mesag giv=Vs 28
Hail-Rejoic,Joy,God speed
Highly=Pre-eminenc,a front row seat
Favored=To grace with special honor
2gethr=G speed,U hav front row seat,Bcuz U bin grac w/specil hon
Wat Mary reactin? vs 29
Who cud blame her? It specil even wh/btot angl of G 2appear 2
humans & Mary knu thisv
vs 30=Gab tel Mary sam as tol Zach but tel her she specil apin
vss 31-33=now Mary has complet adory & she kno wh this specil
statin tok place
vs 34=Mary awar circ ms of 140 & kno w/out 4all plan this contrary
2 4,high morality of day & so she ansr=vs 34
vss 35-36=Mary lerns this with no ord concertin as Gab expl
Mary made awar not only earth circulus wud harn 2her,but also
smth miraculus born 2 Eliz
vs 37=G can do imposibl & He wil do thru her
this lessn we mus lern that G no limit lik we R
so it is this Yng Womn now arr w/specil laws G impart 2her,
she has oportuntly 2tcl wthtr she rt persn 4th/2ob & she ansr
vs 38
she accept challeng & set B4 her & one vordn wat wud hav kept if
Mary had refus G's offer
But G knu her hart & G had selec her fr/all vordn availl &
last this specil gift

(Thus boy iv gift & L wants paymen 4it)

Contrary G no work this way

Gen 3:15

1982yrs latr C this intrventin

vs 34=mos Eliz preg

vs 35=Gab sent specil persn

vs 36=

Hail=Rejoic,Joy,God speed

Highly=Pre-em,front row seat

Favored=To grace w/specil honor

2gethr=Mary,U hav front row seat,Bcuz U bin gracd
w/specil honor

vs 29

vs 30

vss 31-33

vs 34=Mary awar morality of day

vss 35-36

vs 37

vs 38

vss 39-40 & 56

(Thus Div Fertiltv Scene)

"Simply Divine Gifts: A Young Woman"

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

(Illustration of family, gift of TV for son, & collector for gift)

A family in Chicago was very spiritual and when anything good happened to them, they said it was a gift from ~~God~~ the Lord. Jimmy, the youngest member of the family wanted a television set for his Christmas present. So his mother and dad got him one and put it under the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning he was overjoyed with it and his mother told him it was a gift from the Lord and he should thank Him for it. A few months later a man came to the door and Jimmy spoke to him. "Who was at the door, Jimmy?" his mother asked.

"It was the Lord," Jimmy replied, "He wants the third payment on his gift."

Now contrary to this, God never gives a gift and then demands payment for it. His gifts to mankind have been many and they are given with no strings attached. This morning we are continuing the theme, "Simply Divine Gifts," and today that gift is, "A Young Woman."

God had a plan which dates back to the time of creation. Adam and Eve had fallen victims to the wiles of Satan, thus bringing death and separation from God. God knew that in order to restore that relationship with man, He had to enter into man's world in a unique way. So God promised that He would do that by saying as recorded in Genesis chapter 3; verse 15,

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel."

Here, God is speaking to Satan in the serpent and prophesying that at one point in the history of the world He would step into that world in a special way. It was to be the "seed of the woman," not ~~the~~ of man; the seed of one person, not two that was to produce this special person. Many prophecies later, approximately 3,982 years later in fact, we read that intervention into our midst.

Last week we began our look at how God did this through "Simply Divine Gifts," by examining "Angels." That angel was named Gabriel and this morning we see that he is a vital part of this second gift from God, which was "A Young Woman."

Our Scripture begins, "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth." verse 26.

The reference to the "sixth month," is to the pregnancy of Elizabeth who had been visited by Gabriel in our Scripture portion of last week. Gabriel was sent on a special errand to a special person and we read, "To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary." verse 27.

This young woman was engaged to be married to ~~an~~ a man named Joseph who is identified as being a Jew. God had promised that His special gift would come from His chosen people the Jews. Who was Mary? We can't say for certain. All that we know is that she was a young woman engaged to be married and Gabriel has a special message for her. That message was, "And the angel came in unto her and said, 'Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.'" verse 28.

A startling statement to say the least. The word "Hail" means "Joy, rejoice, God speed."

The word "Highly" means, "a pre-eminence, a front row seat."

And the word "Favored" means "to grace with special honor."

So if we put these words and their meanings together we have, "God speed, you with a front row seat, you have been graced with a special honor." And what was Mary's reaction?

We read, "And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be," verse 29.

And who could blame her? It was a special event which brought an angel of God to appear to human beings and Mary knew this. But then Gabriel tells her exactly the same thing which he told Zacharias, (read verse 30). Gabriel reiterates that Mary is special and God has chosen her for a special task. And then Gabriel tells her what that task is, (read verses 31 through 33). Now Mary has the complete story. She knows why this special visitation has taken place. But Mary is aware of the circumstances of life and she knows that ~~wikx~~ the fulfillment of all of this plan is contrary to the accepted morality of that day, and so she answers, (read verse 34).

It is then that Mary learns that this will be no ordinary conception as Gabriel explains it to her, (read verses 35 and 36). Mary is made aware that not only was something miraculous going to happen to her, but something also miraculous has happened to Elizabeth. The explanation is, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." verses 37. Gabriel reminds Mary that God can do the impossible and He was going to do it through her as well. And this is a lesson we need to learn as well and that is God is not limited as we are.

So it is that this "Young Woman," who is now armed with the special news that God has imparted to her, has the opportunity to show whether she is the right person for the task, and she answers, (read verse 38). She accepts the challenge God has set before her. One wonders what would have happened if Mary had refused God's offer. But God knew her heart and God had selected her from all of the women available to bear this special gift. But in ~~xxxxxxx~~ accepting this task, Mary is aware that there will be a certain stigma attached to doing so. First of all she was only engaged to Joseph, not yet married to him. She will very obviously be very pregnant. There was to be no physical contact during the engagement period, but being engaged was as binding as marriage. So if she became pregnant before they were married, Joseph would have to renounce her publicly, and she was subject to receive the penalty of the law for adultery and that was stoning to death. It would be Joseph who as the accuser by law who would cast the first stone. Well aware of all of the legal and moral implications involved, look at what Mary does as recorded in the 39th and 40th verses, ~~xxxxxxx~~ and this is followed by the news in verse 56, "And Mary abode with her about three months and returned to her own house."

The importance of this is that if Mary wanted to get away from any blame or criticism in the obvious situation where she was going to have a baby and was not yet married, she chose a bad way to do it. Zacharias, Elizabeth's husband was a priest. It was the priests who had to administer the law, and the law said that an adulteress was to be punished by stoning to death. For Zacharias to harbor a very obvious adulteress under his roof was unthinkable, and for him not to bring legal action against ~~her~~ was inexcusable. But we do not read of any such action taking place. And the reason is, that Zacharias knew that this was from God. He probably didn't know everything about all of this, but he knew enough that both ~~Elizabeth and Mary had been visited by Gabriel and~~ he and Mary had been visited by Gabriel and God was going to do something wonderful through them.

He knew all about the promised Messiah and he had been told how his son would be the forerunner of that Messiah. And now he knew how God was going to bring this about.

(Illustration of nativity scene and children explaining it)

A minister in a church in Naples, Florida tells of being in his office on the first Saturday in December and outside in the courtyard the men of the church were building a stage for a live nativity scene. Some children were watching what was going on and one asked the other, "What is this going to be?" The other boy answered, "Oh, they are building a live fertility scene."

This is the situation that Mary and Elizabeth and Zacharias found themselves involved in. But the beauty of all of this was that God had planned it and as usual, He was using plain ordinary, common people. We know nothing about Mary other than the fact that she didn't completely understand who or what this child was that God gave her. Perhaps it was only after He has arisen from the grave that she understood why God had used her to bring Him into the world. But we do know that she must have been a "Simply Divine Gift" that God placed in this world for the purpose of using her in His plan of salvation for mankind

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 18, 1988
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Mr. Robert Weisenstein, Liturgist
Acolytes: Wendy Norman and Kelly Mangel

* * * * *
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

*Processional Hymn No. 175 "While Shepherds Watched
Their Flocks by Night"

*Ascription

*Call to Communion and Confession (Communion Folder)

*Prayer of Confession (Communion Folder)

*Assurance of Pardon

*Praise: Pastor - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

*Gloria Patri - page 142

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Offering

Offertory

Doxology - page 382

Communion Hymn No. 168 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Service of Holy Communion (Page 2 of Communion Folder)

The Lord's Supper

Distribution of the Bread

Distribution of the Cup

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20

Sermon: "Simply Divine Gifts: Shepherds"

*Closing Hymn No. 179 "The First Noel"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

* * * * * *Congregation Standing * * * * *

Mrs. Betty Tressler will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.

Those serving Communion this morning will also serve
as Ushers.

Nursery will be provided today by Donna Pflugh.

Ken Draxinger and Dick Dally will be visiting the hospital
this week.

Hospitalized: Elva McCormick, Paul Campbell, Clarence Wolfe.
Attendance last Sunday was 105 with 12 visitors.

Van Driver for December 25th is Dick Mangel.

Van Driver for Christmas Eve Service will be Bill Snyder.

Our Anthem today is part of our Communion Service. There-
fore please don't take offense to the fact that we are
not singing to the congregation. We as one body are
doing this so as not to distract from the Lord's Supper.

The title of our anthem is "If We Truly Believe."

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE will come alive tonight at 7:30
as the Choir presents its Cantata, "Noel Jesus Is Born."
We hope that you will come tonight or tomorrow night for
the second presentation. Call your friends and/or
neighbors and relatives and bring them along. Following
the service, we would like you to join us in Rehoboth
Hall for a fellowship reception.

COOKIES are still needed for the reception following the
Cantata tonight and Monday night. If you would like to
bring some in, please see Helen Riemer.

The Communion Cards are in the back of the pews. Please
take a minute and fill in this information for your 1988
records. Just drop them in the offering plate.

The Flower Chart for 1989 is hanging in the Narthex. Please
stop and fill in the date you wish to place flowers on
the altar.

Today before or after the service please stop and pick up
your offering envelopes for 1989. Also if you would
please take those that are members of your family it will
help me out in making sure that everyone receives them
in time for January 1st, 1989. Thank you.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept
Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling.
The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

MAY GOD BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU ON THIS BLESSED HOLIDAY!!!

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Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

As season Xmas continu 2mov 2ult climax Dec. 25, we R aware of commerc
ilism/consumism of season

We lef w/choic either get cautiv in all huslt/bustl, or keep per-
spectiv of wat season bout & actuly enjoy wat G has givn 2us
Mistr in Goshen, Ind wrot paraphras on Scrip this morn:

(Luk's paraphrase on Luke 2:8-20)

This may not R tru thoz w/in ch, (I hop this not our situatin),
but it tru 4much of society 2day

If seek analys why this so, can draw concl this Satns plan ?
thwart wat tru mean of Xmas is, & that is G sent specil gift 2
th/worl 2bring mank in2 specil relatship w/Himself

But evn w/in ch ther R thoz who want pass off vast commercilism
of th/vr 2anyth but Satn & his wiles

(Ilus girls in 28 & belief in Satn)

Satn cant let tru messag of Xmas get out Bcus that thwarts his
plan & so he caus mas confus bout mas wh/clouds th/issu & LM's
of LM's of peo hav no idea Xmas actuly tru story G's lov gift 2us
W/in this story G's lov is 2B fnd not only ONE SPECIL GIFT, but
sum othr simply givin gifts as wel

So far hav lookd at 2-An Angel, & A Yng Woman

2day we lk at 2-Shepherds

In giv this specil gift, G includ thoz shep, who were
in ch in 28 & how no cum 2comfr class of peo

In fac, cam 4th in manner complet opposit of what G want
2 bring

Imagin surpris of grp sheps fr/Palstin had 2st Xmas nite

Can U pictur wat mus hav bin lik 2B watch ovr sheep on nite

lik any othr nite & sudnly wer conf w/string & disturb phenomer
Luke tel useVas 8-9=sheds confr w/supnatrl lite & supnatrl Beir

We go tol here, but angel cud hav bin Gab whom we met in appears
2 Jch & Marv

this appear 2thez men rather uniqu

Jus who wer they, that they shudR visit by G this mannr?

Ans is startl wen considr they outcasts of society

They wer despis by orthodox neo Bcus cud not keep cermon law

Rituls of hand wash/rules/regs cudnt R kep Bcus necesty of

remain w/flocks

Th/honesty/integrty of sheps was questinbl, they no allow testfy

in cort of law

But man may cal them unclean, G duz not

He chos thez very humbl/dwn 2erth men 2cum & C wat He-God, was

go 2do in this birth

This why Js no acpt universally; He no horn 2roylty/power as worl

knows it

He born humbly, 2humb! parents; reveal 2humb! peo lik sheps: & He

liv humbly & all this contrary 2wat worl seek in l sho wudB Savic

(Ilus comon man & Country/Westrn sinner both dy & recog of each)

All this prove we really know G in our own hearts
vs 10-messag giv 2sheds uniqu also
word 4 Joy is CHARA & its complet mean in Luk always associat w/
Salvatin-G has vist peo 2bring salv & this=GRAT JOY WH/SHALB 2ALL
& messag continuVs 11

Ther canR no doubt who t is Baby was

1st He cal A SAVICR & this ment this Baby 2B Th/Redeemer

sheds wer probly pius Jews & they knu a prom Delivr was 2

cum 4th fr/the Jews, but this Delivr war 2B callid=THE MESSIAH

That ment He war 2B th/incorrd One fr/God

Th/names=He ment=th/incorrd One, & thus they knu He was th/Mesiah

as promis 2cum

They receiv news wher 2find Him & then read=Vas 15-17, 20

They cam 2Beth 2C 2selvs & 2pay homag 2this Sav

They knu a Sav requir sacrific had 2B made & altho prob no knu
or undrstud details at this time, they aware sacrific was 2B offr

4 salv/4givnes 2tak place

Ironc thing bout this event is that thez particulr sheps wer

probly th/very ones ~~XXXX~~ who tend th/lambs wh/wudB used at

th/following Feast Passovr 2erant 4givnes 2 th/Jews

thoz lambs wer pastur outsid ~~XXXX~~ Beth & takn 2templ in Jeru 4

th/Feast in th/spring

So here wer th/sheps of th/sacrificial lambs, visiting th/Lamb

of God

But thez sheps servd nothr purp & that sumup in vas 17 & 20

Wat tuk plac here? Thez sheps serv as 1st Evangelists

They went out & tol all they seen/herd=AS IT WAS TOLD THEM

Th/privileg info they receiv, they no keep 2selvs, they shard it

it in Vs 18we read of reactin 2 th/cum of Xp in2 th/worl

Ja writ his Gospel=HE CAM UN2 HOS OWN & HIS OWN RECEIV HIM NOT

Jn 1:11

This bin reactin of worl sinc Adv of Js in2 it

(1st Ring Crosby & famly sing Xmas Carols & turn way in comunity)

Th. essenc of wat worl has dun & continues 2do w/Js

perhaps it bes expl in story bout Xmas play:

(Ilus Xmas play & Lites turn off-U Switched off Js)

We R invit by G ~~XXXX~~ 2tak Him in2 our harts/livs & turn us on

2u 2many peo do exac oposit

R U bothr by this season & geting turn off by it?

If R R, U hav Ur eyes on th/wrong things

Turn Ur eyes 2that maner in Beth & Cum again 2 Ador Him, Xp the

Lord

Comercilism/consumerism & choic keep perspectiv
(Ilus paraphras of Lk 2:8-20)

Satn seek thwart mesag of Xmas
(Ilus SS girls & belief in Satan=I THINK ITS LIKE
SANTA CLAUS. ITS REALLY YOUR FATHER

: 8-9=mite of bin Gabriel agin
Sheps wer outcasts etc

Js no accept Bcuz humbl birth/lif
(Ilus common man & cntry/westrn singr & deaths)

Vs 10=CHARA - JOY & in Luke asoc w/SALVATIN

Vs 11=SAVIOR - Messiah & sheps knu

XP th/LORD - Anointd One - Messiah

vss 15-17, 20

ironic tend Pasovr lambs

vss 17 & 20

1st Evangelsist

vs 18=sho reactin of worl

Jn writ=HE CAM UN2HIS OWN & HIS OWN RECEIVD HIM
NOT

(Ilus Ring Crosby & resfus 2 sing Xmas Carols)

(Ilus Xmas play &=U Switchd Off Js)

R U Bothr w/seasn & get turn off by it?

If U R U hav Ur eyes on wrong things

Turnr Ur eyes 2 manger in Beth & Cun agin 2 ador
Him,Xp th/Lord

"Simply Divine Gifts: Shepherds"

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

As the season of Christmas continues to move to its ultimate climax on December 25, we are all aware of the commercialism and consumerism of this season. We are left with the choice of either getting caught up in all the hustle and bustle, or keeping our perspective of what the season is all about and actually enjoying that which God has given to us. A minister in Goshen, Indiana wrote a paraphrase on our Scripture of this morning. This is what he wrote: (Illustration of this paraphrase on Luke 2:8-20)

This may not be true for those of us within the church, (and I would hope that ~~it~~ this isn't our situation), but it is true for much of our society today. If we seek to analyze why this is so we can only draw the conclusion that this is Satan's plan to thwart what the true meaning of Christmas is, and that is, that God sent a special gift to the world to bring mankind into a special relationship with Himself. But even within the church there are those who want to pass off the vast commercialism of the year to anything but Satan and his ~~wives~~ wiles.

(Illustration of girls in Sunday School class and belief in Satan)

A Sunday School class of first-graders had a lesson on Satan. As two little girls left Sunday School that morning the one said to the other, "You don't really believe that ~~business~~ news about the devil, do you?". "Of course not," the other girl answered. "I think it's like Santa Claus. It's really your father."

Satan can't let the true message of Christmas get out because that thwarts his plan and so he causes the mass confusion about Christmas which clouds the issue and thousands upon thousands of people have no idea that Christmas is actually the true story of God's Gift of Love to us. Within this story of God's love is to be found not ~~only~~ ~~THE ONE SPECIAL GIFT~~, but also some other "Simply Divine Gifts" as well. We have looked thus far at two of them, "An Angel" and "A Young Woman." Today we will look at a third gift and that is, "Shepherds." In giving that Special Gift, God included these other gifts to show us how we are involved in this plan and how it didn't just come to a certain class of people. In fact, it came forth in a manner completely opposite as the world of the religious believed it would.

Imagine the surprise a group of shepherds from Palestine had that first Christmas night! Can you picture what it must have been like to be watching over a flock of sheep on a night like any other night, and suddenly they were confronted with a strange and disturbing phenomenon. Luke tells us, (Read verses 8 & 9). The shepherds were confronted with a supernatural light and a supernatural being. We are not told so here, but this angel could well have been Gabriel whom we met in previous appearances to Zacharias and Mary. This appearance to these men was rather unique. Just who were they that they should be visited by God in this manner? The answer is startling when we consider that they were the outcasts of their society. They were despised by the orthodox people because they could not keep the ceremonial law. The rituals of hand-washings and rules and regulations couldn't be kept because of the necessity to remain with their flocks. The honesty and integrity of the shepherds was so questionable, they were not allowed to testify in a court of law. But

WHA

-2-

A man may call unclean, God does not. He chose these very humble, down-to-earth men to come and see what He, (God), was going to do for mankind in this birth. This is why Jesus has not been accepted universally. He was not born to royalty, or power as the world knows it. He was born humbly, to humble parents; revealed to humble people like the shepherds,; and ~~xxx~~ lived humbly. All of this is contrary to what the world seeks in one who would be a Savior.

(Illustration of common man & celebrity country & western singer)

Just last week we had an example of this. A noted business leader, philanthropist and all around gentleman died. A well known country & western singer died about the same time. Three sentences about the death of the businessman appeared in the Wall Street Journal. Whole columns in newspapers across the nation, as well as many pictures on TV newscasts were devoted to the singer.

All of which proves that we glorify the glamorous, and look down on that which is common and ordinary..

The message given to the shepherds was also unique. We read in the 10th verse, "And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'"

The word for Joy is CHARA and its complete meaning in the book of Luke is always associated with Salvation. God has visited His people to bring them Salvation and this is the "Great Joy, which shall be to all people."

The message of the angel continues in the 11th verse and we read, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

There can be no doubt as to who this baby was. First He was called "A Saviour." This meant that this baby was destined to be "The Redeemer." As ~~xxx~~ pious Jews which these shepherds probably were, they knew that there was a promised Deliverer to come forth from the Jews. But this Deliverer was to be called "The Messiah." That meant He was to be the anointed One from God. The Name Christ, meant, "The Anointed One." Thus, they understood that this was the long promised Messiah.

They received the news of where to find Him, and then we read after the angels were gone from their midst, (Read verses 15-17 & 20). They came to Bethlehem to see for themselves and to pay homage to this Saviour. They knew that a Saviour required that a sacrifice had to be made. They probably didn't understand how, or any of the details at this time, but they were well aware that a sacrifice was offered in order for salvation, or forgiveness to take place. The ironic thing about this event is, that these particular shepherds were probably the very ones who tended the lambs which would be used at the following Feast of the Passover to grant forgiveness to the Jews. Those lambs were pastured outside of Bethlehem and taken to the temple in Jerusalem for the feast in the spring.. So here were the shepherds of the sacrificial lambs visiting the Lamb of God.

But these shepherds served another purpose and that is summed up in the 17th and 20th verses, (Read these verses). What took place here? These shepherds served as the first evangelists. They went out and told all that they had seen and heard, "AS IT WAS TOLD THEM." The privileged information they received, they didn't keep to themselves. They shared it. It is in the 18th verse that we read of the reaction to the coming of Christ into the world, (read this verse). John writing in his Gospel tells us, "He came unto His own, and His own knew Him not," John 1:11.

This has been the reaction of the world since the Advent of Jesus into it.

(Illustration of Bing Crosby and family singing Christmas carols in the neighborhood)

This is the essence of what the world has done and continues to do with Jesus. Perhaps it could be best explained in the story of the Christmas play:

(Illustration of Christmas play where lights all turned off & "You switched off Jesus")

We are invited by God to take Him into our hearts and turn us on. But too many people do the exact opposite. Are you bothered by this season and getting turned off by it? If you are, you have your eyes on the wrong things. Turn your eyes to the manger in Bethlehem and come again to adore Him, Christ the Lord.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 24, 1988

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Mr. Robert Weissenstein, Liturgist

Acolytes: Kelly Mangel and Wendy Norman

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 P.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

*Opening Hymn No. 171 "Joy To The World"

*Ascription

*Call to Communion and Confession (Communion Bulletin)

*Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Lighting of the Christmas Wreath

Christmas Scriptures and Carols

ME - The Promise: Who - Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7

Where - Micah 5:2

Carol Response No. 178 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
(first verse)

ME (The Journey - Luke 2:1-7

The Heavenly Announcement - Luke 2:8-14

Carol Response No. 179 "The First Noel" (first verse)

BoB - The Common Visitors - Luke 2:15-20

Carol Response No. 197 "It Came Upon The Midnight

Clear" (first verse)

ME - The Royal Visitors - Matthew 2:1-11

Carol Response No. 206 "We Three Kings"

(first and last verses)

BoB (The Offering of our Gifts

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology - page 382

Communion Carol No. 193 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

ME (The Holy Communion (page 2 of Communion Bulletin)

The Distribution of the Elements

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Christmas Dialogue: "The Welcome Inn"

The Candlelighting

The Candlelighting Carol "Silent Night"

"Silent Night"

Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm all is bright,
Round yon virgin, mother and child, Holy infant so
tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing
al le lu ia;

Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

(Congregation Standing on the third verse)

Silent Night, Holy Night, Son of God, loves pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of
redeeming grace,

Jesus Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord, at thy birth.

*Benediction

*Postlude

***** *Congregation Standing - + + + + +

Mrs. Marge Smiley will greet our members and guests at the
door on this glorious evening.

Nursery will be provided by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki.

The Elders and Deacons will be serving as Ushers and
serving the Lord's Supper this evening.

Helen Riemer and Bonnie Gannon will be visiting the hospital
this week.

> ELDERS, DEACONS, AND COUNCIL OFFICERS are urged to be in
church on Sunday. You will be installed in your
respective positions.

A reminder that all gifts, monies, etc. that you wish to
have credited to your statement for 1988 must be in by
Friday at noon in time to bank it.

> Communion Cards are in the back of the pews. Please be sure
to fill them out. You may drop them in the offering
plate. Also we encourage you to please sign the red
attendance record book. This helps me to complete your
records for attendance, giving and communing for 1988.

> During the lighting of the little candles, we ask that you
tilt your candle toward the one that is lit. This
prevents dripping wax and therefore, no one will be burnt.
Please leave the communion folders in the pews after the
service.

Daniel: Good evening and welcome to "Profiles Of Progress." This is Daniel the news analyst, correspondent and anchor of station J-E-R-U here in Jerusalem.
My special guest on this segment of "Profiles Of Progress" is the noted and distinguished businessman, Eli the Innkeeper.
Good evening Eli, and welcome to Profiles Of Progress."

Eli: Good evening Daniel.

Daniel: Although you are now a very successful businessman, it wasn't always that way was it? Isn't it true Eli, that you were once a struggling inn keeper and ready to quit?

Eli: Yes, that's very true. My first inn was located in Jericho. I had believed that this location would prove to be very lucrative since most of the Temple priests lived in this city.

Daniel: But why would you think that the priests would make your business if they lived there? They would not be overnight guests in your inn because of this.

Eli: That's true Daniel, but I was relying on their patronage at the Inn for meals, as well as bringing their overnight guests to stay there. But I suppose there is some truth to the saying that the Temple priests are a little tight with their money.

Daniel: But even though your Inn at Jericho wasn't successful, wasn't there a rather unique event that took place there?

Eli: There certainly was. A man was traveling to Jericho when he was waylaid by thieves. They mugged him and stole his money and donkey and left him for dead.
The story as it was relayed to me was that first a temple priest passed the man up, then a Levite, and all the while the man is lying in the road hurt and bleeding. Then a Samaritan came along, gave the man first-aid and brought him to my Inn on his donkey. I was given instructions to take care of the man until the Samaritan returned from his trip and he would repay me for any and all expenses.

Daniel: But there's more to it than that, isn't there?

Eli: If you mean the near riot we had, there sure is more to it. Because I let a Samaritan come to my Inn, and I took his money, and he would return later and perhaps stay there, the religious community was offended. The next morning when I got up to begin my day, there was a line of pickets out front. One of them who was acting as their leader came in and informed me that as long as I continued to have dealings with Samaritans my Inn would be boycotted by all self-respecting Jews. I told them I had to treat all customers the same and couldn't be partial.

Daniel: So how did this affect your business?

Eli: It had a very adverse effect on it. Business began to drop off, and I had to either close up, sell out, or stay until I went broke.

Daniel: So what was your decision?

Eli: I was told that there was an Inn for sale in Bethlehem which was having similar problems and I began to check it out.

Daniel: But if that Inn was experiencing the same problems as yours, why would you want to consider moving there?

Eli: Well Dan, there was little inside information that I had access to. A friend of mine had been to Rome and he heard from an influential friend while there that there was going to be a special census declared by the Emperor Augustus Caesar for the purpose of raising more taxes.

Daniel: And so this prompted you to buy that Inn?

Eli: It sure did. But the problem was, there was no definite time period on that census and so I had to decide if I could make ends meet until then. So I decided to take a chance and I bought the Inn.

Daniel: And that is the beginning of your success story. But what about the ugly rumors that you became a hardheaded businessman?

Eli: That all came about because no matter what I would have done when the census took place, I simply couldn't please everyone. The decree as set forth by the Emperor was that each adult had to register in their hometown. That meant that people were traveling all over Palestine to get back to the place of their birth. For many it was something they complied with because it meant getting to see the old homestead and the relatives and friends who were still there. For others it was a necessary evil to be endured and they were not in a festive spirit. Naturally, ours being the only Inn in the city, we were booked up in short order.

Daniel: That explains the crowding in Bethlehem, but what about your harsh dealings with some of these people? What about the family you sent to the stable?

Eli: Well Dan, people need to realize that any Inn can only hold so many people. No matter how many rooms you have, there are always times when that number is not enough. So, I had to turn people away. And as for that couple, what else could I do? I felt sorry for them, they looked so poor and tired. I did the only thing I could do when I was told she was ready to deliver. People may call me names and look down on my actions, but I at least gave them a place to stay out of the cold. I wonder how many other people gave them the elbow and didn't even offer to help.

Daniel: So how did all of this affect you as events began to unfold after that woman gave birth in the stable?

Eli: The events of that night actually began shortly after I had sent that couple to the stable. I had our busboy lead the man, woman, and donkey around the back to the stable. I sent one of our young waitresses out to give them whatever creature comforts we could, like some blankets, water, and make sure the donkey was fed. It wasn't too long after this, at least it didn't seem long, but I decided to step outside for a breather. It was pitch black, but there was one real bright star moving rather fast across the sky. I stood quietly and watched it for a while. But then my attention was drawn to the hills just outside of town. It seemed like right at the top of one of the hills, the whole sky lit up. It was rather wierd and it seemed like singing was drifting over the night air from that hilltop. I watched for a while and the light disappeared

just as quickly as it had appeared. I rubbed my eyes to make sure I wasn't just seeing things. But those hills were just as black as ever and I wondered if I wasn't imagining it all.

Daniel: Did you say anything to anyone else about this?

Eli: No, I didn't. I went back in the Inn to resume my duties to see that our guests were comfortable and the food and drink adequate. I didn't think anymore about it, but shortly after I got back to work the stableboy came in to tell me excitedly that woman in the stable had given birth to a baby. I knew that the time was near, but I was hoping that it wouldn't happen until after they had left town.

Daniel: What did you do after you heard this news?

Eli: I did the only thing I could do. I sent one of our waitresses out to make them as comfortable as possible. She came back and told me that they were using the manger as a crib for the baby.

Daniel: But that was only the beginning of this nighttime adventure wasn't it?

Eli: That's putting it mildly. A short time later there was some noise outside and I went to look. It was a group of shepherds asking anyone in sight where a certain baby had been born. They were telling of a bright light, and angels talking to them, and singing about the birth of this baby. They were making the claim that this baby was the Messiah of the Jews. At this point I was confused.

Daniel: Why would you be confused? You knew about the birth, why wasn't it just what the shepherds were saying it was?

Eli: I'm a reasonable man, Dan. Look at it from the standpoint of what is normal and proper. Have you ever heard that the Messiah of the Jews was to be born in this way? Doesn't all of the Jewish Scriptures tell of some sort of King coming to rescue the Jews? It just didn't make sense at the time. Here were these smelly, common shepherds being told the special news that this birth in the stable in the back of my Inn was the King of the Jews. Who could believe that of all of the Jews, these men were selected as the ones to hear this special revelation?

Daniel: What did you do when these shepherds told you what had happened and why they had come in from the hills?

Eli: I just told them to go and look for themselves because I was too busy to conduct tours of my stable. And besides, I told them I was doubtful about all of this.

Daniel: Was that the end of this event on that night?

Eli: Are you kidding? That was only the beginning. First it was shepherds, and then around midnight there was an entourage of men riding camels who said they were kings from the East. They rode into town in all their finery and splendor asking where this "King" had been born. I was just sorry that all my rooms were full because I just knew that I was missing out on making a fine piece of change from these fellows.

Daniel: Did these "kings" give any indication why they came? Was it just some whim that brought them?

Eli: They told me they had followed a super bright star and that in their computations of astronomical phenomena this kind of a special star meant that a powerful King had been born, or was to be born. They told me they had checked with King Herod and he had given them his blessing to come to Bethlehem and check it all out. Somehow I just couldn't picture that sly old fox as sitting still while a baby was born and was called "The King of the Jews." He had always been so jealous of anyone who came close to upstaging him, that he eliminated wives, and sons to prevent anyone from assuming the throne. It got so bad that the Romans said it was better to be a pig in Herod's household than to be his wife or children.

Daniel: Did you tell these kings that you had noticed a large fast moving star in the night sky?

Eli: Yes, I did.

Daniel: And what was their reaction?

Eli: They were happy to hear that because it supported their reason for traveling from the East.

Daniel: Do you know what happened after they finished talking to you?

Eli: I heard it secondhand, but I was told that they entered the stable and bowed before that infant and gave him three expensive presents.

Daniel: And what were those presents?

Eli: Of course gold was one of them and this in itself lends the belief that this was a King, because gold is not given to common ordinary children. The specially made incense called "Frankincense" was given to him and again this indicates his royalty. But the third gift was rather peculiar.

Daniel: Why do you say that?

Eli: Well, that gift was Myrrh and you know as well as I do that myrrh is a spice that is used to anoint dead bodies. Why would anyone give such a grisly gift on this special occasion is what everyone asked. But I think I have finally discovered the answer.

Daniel: What makes you think you have unraveled the mystery?

Eli: It has taken about thirty-three years, but that's another story.

Daniel: Well since you have become so well known as The World's Innkeeper, perhaps our audience would like to hear that story.

Eli: Very well, I'll tell it. You see it all started right here in Bethlehem. I know that I didn't have room for that baby to be born in a proper place, but as the years have rolled by I have learned that all of this may have been according to a special plan by God.

Daniel: Does this mean that you of all people have come to be a follower of this God the Jews worship?

Eli: Up until this day I would have said that was not possible. Shortly after that special census and the birth and so on, I had the opportunity to buy an INN in Jerusalem. As you well know, I named that Inn "The Welcome Inn." I determined from then on that anyone, would be welcome, rich or poor, king or commoner and it has paid off. But that couple went back home to the little town of Nazareth and life settled down for all of us. Then I heard that a family had come to the temple with their twelve-year-old son and that son had held his own with the Rabbi's in the temple. My curiosity was aroused and I watched year after year as this boy grew to manhood. When He was about 30 years-old, He began what some have called "His ministry." It wasn't too long until word started to drift into town about some of the wonderful things He was capable of doing. Those words of His deeds caught the attention of the Chief Priest and his selected cohorts. It was then that at each Feast of the Passover this young man was watched very closely and even followed to get evidence against Him. So it was that just a week ago He rode into town on a donkey and was acclaimed as "King of the Jews," and they sang, "Hosanna, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." Well, you can bet that this caught the attention of these Jewish leaders. Every day I heard bits and snatches of conversations about a plot being put forth to eliminate Him. But more than that, I knew a few things the Jewish authorities didn't.

Daniel: Do you want to elaborate?

Eli: I suppose to do so now certainly can't cause Him anymore harm. He was coming to Jerusalem to spend the Feast of the Passover with His men, and one of them came to me and told me.

Daniel: Why would they convey this message to you?

Eli: Well, you see, I just happen to have a large room which I use for special banquets and dinners and they were looking for just such a place. I knew they didn't have money, so I gave them permission to use my upper room. Well, they ate the feast there and after they went into a nearby garden this man, Jesus, was arrested by the Romans. Jerusalem was swarming with people who had come for the feast. My Inn was full, except it now held Roman soldiers, visiting Jewish leaders and those who had made reservations to be here. The next day I heard that the Romans were to have a special execution. At this time each year they always did, but this one was to execute this so called "King of the Jews." From what I heard the trial started early in the morning and this man named Jesus was nailed on a cross at 9:00 A.M. with a thief on each side of Him and about 3:00 P.M. He died. All of us thought that was the end of Him, but it wasn't. On Sunday morning, word reached Jerusalem that He had come back from the grave and was alive and seen by many. Naturally, this caused quite a stir, especially among the Jewish leaders.

Daniel: Do you know for a fact that this is true?

Eli: Do I know for a fact? I sure do, because these disciples of His asked permission to use my upper room after He was executed. They wanted to hide from those leaders and it was here that I saw Him on Sunday after He came back from the grave.

Daniel: So how has all of this affected you now?

Eli: I have learned that this is the Messiah and that birth in a stable in back of my Inn was everything that was said about it and more. I'm sorry I didn't open my heart then and make room for that baby. But you see Daniel, I have had these years to discover who this baby really was and is and from it I have opened my heart to Him. He came He said, "To give me life, and to give it more abundantly." Yes, I've become a follower of His and my heart is open to Him and to the things of God. My prayer is that every person would truly look at Him and make room in their hearts for Him this day.

Daniel: Well thank you Eli for being our guest. I trust that those who hear this message will take it to heart.

Eli: So do I Dan, so do I. Thank you and goodnight!

NOEL, NOEL,
JESUS IS BORN, NOEL!

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor December 25, 1988
Mr. Robert Weisenstein, Liturgist
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Kelly Mangel and Wendy Norman

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Bob Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys

Prayer Requests

Choral Introit "Sing! Jesus Christ Is Born"

ME *Opening Hymn No. 193 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

*Ascription

*Call to Worship:

Bob — Leader: Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the
glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

People: (singing) O come, let us adore Him!

ME — Pastor: And nations shall come to thy light, and kings
to the brightness of thy rising. For unto us
a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

People: (singing) O come, let us adore Him!

Bob — Leader: And the government shall be upon His shoulders;
and His name shall be called Wonderful,
Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting
Father, the Prince of Peace.

People: (singing) O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Bob *Invocation (In Unison)

O Loving Father, You sent Your Son into the world as a
bright and morning star to shine as a great Light to man
as he dwelt in the midst of the darkness, send The Light
of Your presence into our hearts this Christmas morning.
We have spent the previous days preparing our lives that
today could culminate in a joyous experience of Christmas,
which is, "God with us." That Light of Bethlehem shines
above the hope of this world and points us to a humble
beginning for our Redeemer. Today, turn all of our dark-
ness to The Light, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn No. 178 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ME — Christmas Prayer

Prayer Response Hymn No. 195 "Silent Night"

Bob The Offering of our Gifts
Offertory

*Doxology - page 362

ME — Installation of Council Officers and Members

Anthem: "It's The Love"

Bob Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20

Sermon: "Simply Divine Gifts: A Baby"

*Invitational Hymn No. 171 "Joy To The World"

*Closing Chimes

*Benediction

*Postlude

+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +

Mr. & Mrs. Herb Shearer will greet our members and guests
at the door this morning.

Ushering today will be Dick Mangel, George Pflugh, Dick
Dally and Don Kingsley.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. LuAnn Janicki.

Helen Riemer and Bonnie Gannon will be visiting the
hospital this week.

Hospitalized:

Attendance last Sunday was 127 with 8 visitors.

Van Driver for January 1st will be Dick Dally.

A REMINDER: All gifts, monies, etc. that you wish to have
credited to your statement for 1988 must be in by Friday
at noon in time to bank it. Thank you!

Help is needed to take the Living Christmas tree down on
January 3rd. Please come and join us at 7 P.M.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 1989 are in the back of the church.
Please take a moment and pick yours up. Please pick up
those of your family as well. The remaining envelopes
will be distributed by Council members after Christmas.

The Flower Chart for 1989 is hanging in the Narthex. Take
a minute and sign up for flowers now.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept
Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling.
The Pastor will assist you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SAGAMORE
DECEMBER 20, 1998

Greeting and joys for the Week

Announcements

Prayer Requests

Lighting of the Advent Candle

KIDS
Hymns. Silent Night p. 195
Oh Little Town of Bethlehem p. 178
Hark the Herald Angels Sing p. 184

Offering Prayer

Offering

Doxology

Prayer and Prayer Requests

Hymn

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20 Christmas Story

Sermon: Simply Divine Gift: A Baby

LORD I SUPPER
Invitational Hymn

Benediction

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.....

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to each worshiper to respond to God's leading for your life. the invitation gives the opportunity to accept Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling. The offer is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist you if you so desire.

PLEASE STAND

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE WEEK.....

A special Candle Light Service
will be held Christmas Eve, Thursday
December 24, 1998, at 7:00 P.M.
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

DAILY BREAD SOCIETY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Jessica Abel - December 20th
Kathy Morgan - December 17th
Florence Cooper - December 26th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Ralph and Shirley Link - December 15th

At Christmas may we celebrate
the true meaning of the season.....
Jesus Christ.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the
Heavenly lights....."

James 1:17

*MIKERA FAMILY
FAMILIES OF SAGAMORE PEOPLE
LET RAY
JIM - HEART
BROCK
CERE/SIS JANE
RAN/DO*

"Simply Divine Gifts: A Baby"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

(Ilus 2nd/3rd/4th US A CHIL IN BORN. RPT LNG & RPT WID)

(I' 1800 Europ, Nap, births=Darwin, Poe, Tennyson, Gladston, Lincoln)
 how 1800 vs prior 2nd event th/worl spin threthngz grasp Romm
 Emair

Aug Caesar on thron & rul w/iron fist

Vs 1-2 decree evrone mus go hometwn & registr

this rev was census 2rais taxes & ment evr persen Salstin had go

2plac of birth & reg

vs 4tels of Jos Bouz this requirment of all males

this requir of males Bouz mos males wer heds of houshol

vs 5atel us bout Mary conditin

vs 6time 4birth & vs 7 tel us of that birth

Mary had her baby & swad clothes wer th/pampers/luvs of her day

This baby was brot in2 a sin darkn worl ~~xxxxxx~~ & this was no

time 2B hav babies

But this was all plan, a unio plan of G

(Ilus littl girl, red bow & "I'M A PRESENT DADDY")

This exactly wat Js was

He was THE Simply Divin Gif fr/G's gif of luv

but unfortunately, G's presen is sumth 2B thot of once a yr

(Ilus Wilard Sperry buk-Js, then & now & womn Js, Now & Then)

This wat many peo do w/Js, THEY SEEK HIM now & then, & not cr a

full of basis

Perhaps reason 4this is due 2fac it dif sort out wat this birth

really means

We R tol He Emmanuel, or, G w/us, mean of corse He is G in flesh

This why necessary He B bron in mann'r was born=? a Virgin

his ment had no real earthly Fathr

This doctrin we struggl w/ th but can undrst this phenom if want?

May no undrst fully, but can C G's plan in this

But Js also human & this wat hard 2grasp

in his humanty He had 2hav diapr chngd & ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ had

2B fed, bathd, etc & who evr herd of a god who needed this?

He was cal=K of Kings, but wher was His powr? A king had 2hav

powr 2rul, but this baby didnt

perhaps th/bes expl of Xmas is alway 2B fnd in way childrn giv

us insites in2 ther think of it

(Ilus let gradre & Congrate Jos its a God)

This exac how Jn descib in his godpls=IN TH/BGIN WAS TH/WORD &

TH/WORD WAS W/GOD, & TH/WORD WAS GOD

But no one can B part this suprnaturl even & not B mov by it

G cam in tiny infan & that infan gru 2manhud & fac all probs &

perplextys U & I face

He was as human as es of us & fr/this idnety we can C that shud

hav made radicl chng in th/worl, but it didnt

(Ilus Bishop Sheen & Plutarch, & ther sumth misng insid)

Ther sumth mis insid ea man who duzat kno Js Xp as L & Sav

Ther continual serch by many peo of this worl 4that wh/wil bring

4nes & peace

this Xmas season we hav pas thru is exampl of this

4 too many peo it bin jus time 2buy hapnes w/presents, fun, &

partys

But it only w/relationship w/Js Xp we can find any peac 4our

trubled live

Th/Xmas story mayB 4us sumth we herd ovr & ovr agin

but ea yr it is G entr worl agin 2cum 2us & 2B w/us

How duz Xmas affect us?

Ansr lya in wat Js means 2us

(Ilus skul clas afr Xmas vactin & wat they did on Xmas)

Xmas shud hav this efec on evry lif

we shud all B abl say=wat a Frend we hav in Js

this wat G intend 4all mank

that bit of news wh/was giv by angl is ours 2hear agin & agin

ea yr & 2rejoic that Js has cum=vs 10 & 11

& how wil we kno this is THE ONE?

Vs 12 is th/ansr

He cam as a Baby

He was G's Simply Divin Gift

He was G's suprem gif of luv 2 & 4 mank

Our live shud nev'r B th/sam agin once we hav visit th/mangr in

Beth

Our respons shudB that we praise G & say=GLORY TO G IN TH/HIGHEE

& ON EARTH PEAC, GODWIL TOWARD MEN

Do U kno that Babe of Beth as Br Sav, Xp Th/Lord?

"Simply Divine Gifts: A Baby"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

(Illustration of church sign)

The pastor of a small town church sent one of his parishioners to the big city to place an order for a Christmas sign to be hung outside the door of the church. The parishioner lost the note with the information which gave the message and the dimensions. So he went to the Western Union office and wired the pastor, "Rush copy of motto and dimensions." When the clerk read the message the pastor sent back, she almost fainted. It read: "Unto us a child is born. Eight feet long and three feet wide."

~~Thxxxxxx1809~~ In the year 1809 the world was held in the grips of fear as everyone's attention was drawn to the events in Europe. Napoleon was sweeping across the continent and that was the extent of the news. But in that same year there were events taking place which would give to the world some of the world's most noted people. In that year, Charles Darwin was born, whose theory has caused controversy ever since. Edgar Allen Poe was born that year, and so was Alfred Lord Tennyson. William Gladstone the author of freedom for slaves in the British Empire was born in England, while in a log cabin in Kentucky, a baby named Abraham was also born, and he was the American who freed the slaves and his name was Abraham Lincoln.

About 1800 years prior to these events, the world was gripped in the threatening grasp of the Roman Empire. Augustus Caesar was on the throne of the Empire and ruled with an iron fist. His decree was that everyone had to go to their hometown and register. This registration was a census to raise more taxes. This meant that every person living in Palestine had to go to their place of birth and register. It was from this registration that a man and his pregnant girlfriend to whom he was engaged came to their hometown of Bethlehem. While they were there we are told in Scripture, "the time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth her firstborn son and laid him in a manger." A baby was born. But this was no time to be bringing babies into an already crowded world. This baby came into a dark world to bring light and it was all according to a unique plan by God. ~~But~~

(Illustration of little girl, and, "I'm a present")

God wrapped that baby in those "sawdlin' clothes" and He became a ~~present~~ ^{PAMPER/LUVS OF THAT DAY} a present that has forever changed the world. Or at least it was supposed to change the world. For many people God's present is just something that is trotted out once a year, dusted off, and then put back in storage a few days after Christmas.

(Illustration of Sperry's book, "Jesus, Then and Now.")

Willard Sperry wrote a book entitled, "Jesus, Then and Now." A woman wanting a copy of that book went to a bookstore and asked for the book, "Jesus, Now and then."

That's what many do with Jesus. They seek him just now and then and not on a fulltime basis. Perhaps the reason for this is due to the fact that it is difficult to sort out what this birth really means. We are told that He was "Emmanuel," or, "God with us." Meaning of course that He was God in the flesh. Now there are those who struggle with this and perhaps can grasp it after some explanation of this phenomena ~~fixed~~ by God.

But He was also human and this may be more difficult to grasp. In His humanity He had to be cared for and who ever heard of a god that had to have his diapers changed, or had to be fed and bathed? Perhaps the hardest thing for anyone to grasp is that Jesus was fully God, but He was also fully human. He was called, "The King of the Jews." But if we look at a baby we see how helpless and fragile they are. Where is the power that a king must

HAVE?

Perhaps the best explanation of Christmas is always to be found in the way children give us insights into their thinking of it.

(Illustration of first graders and "Congratulations Joseph, it's a God")

That is ~~exactly~~ how John describes it in His Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

But no one can be a part of this supernatural drama and not be moved by it. God came in a tiny infant and that infant grew to manhood and faced all of the perplexities and problems which you and I face. He was as human as each of us and from this identity we can see that should have made a radical change in all mankind. But it ~~does~~n't.

(Illustration of Bishop Fulton Sheen and Plutarch)

Bishop Fulton Sheen once told a story that Plutarch related. Plutarch said there was a man who sought to make a dead man stand upright. He tried all kinds of ways, with no success. Finally he gave up saying, "There is something missing on the inside." And Bishop Sheen concluded by saying, "This is the story of everyman."

There is something missing inside of each person who doesn't know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There is a continual search by many people of this world for that which will bring peace and happiness. This Christmas season we have passed through is an example of this. For too many people it has been just a means to try to buy that happiness with presents and fun and parties. But it is only with a relationship with Jesus Christ that we can find any peace for our troubled lives.

The Christmas story may be for us something that we have heard ~~over~~ and over again. But each year it is God entering the world again to come to us and be with us.

How does Christmas affect us? The answer lies in what Jesus means to us.

(Illustration school class after Christmas vacation & what they did on Christmas)

Christmas should have this effect on every life. That is exactly what God intended for mankind. That bit of good news which was given by the angel is ours to hear again and again each year and to rejoice that Jesus has come.

"Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

And how will we know if this is the One? "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

He came as a baby. He was God's Simply Divine Gift. He was God's supreme gift of love to and for mankind. Our lives should never be the same once we have visited the manger in Bethlehem. Our response should be that we praise God saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Do you know that Babe of Bethlehem as your Savior, Christ the Lord?









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.